Morning KC

不思議な少年 5

a Wonder Boy

山下和美

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a Wonder Boy

人間て不思議だ。

歴史を繙き、不思議な少年のモチーフを研究する老いた民俗学者
40歳OLの再就職。日常が憂鬱に埋もれていく中、車窓からふと見えた奇妙な光景
独裁者によって支配された未来に、タイムスリップした力なき少年・ルキ
幸せな人生とは何か？少年と再会した老夫婦は、ある重大な選択をする
記憶の中で大きく輝く彗星。その再来によって蘇るのは、あの懐かしく大切な日々。

あらゆる時代において、人間が宿す思いが、いつも少年を揺さぶり続ける。
それは、人間が限りある命を生きる者だからか？
永遠の時を旅する少年には、いまだその答えは見えない。
「天才柳沢教授の生活」の山下和美が、
人間の営みに潜む繊細な感情を描くシリーズ、第5巻！

不思議な少年

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14 P3 フランツ・カウフマン博士
老人は、気付いた、古今東西の民話に共通して現れるモチーフ"不思議な少年"の存在に

15 P79 40歳のOL 村山香
ある日、車窓を通して見えた非現実的な光景に目を追うにつれ、その不思議さは増し

16 P119 ルキ・イスカリオテ
ここは異世界!? 恐るべき能力を持つ被験者が支配する街に、少年ルキは放り出される

17 P207 夫・恭平、妻・瑠璃子
満開の桜が舞い散る庭の縁側には、幸せそうに見える老夫婦。二人が望み、憧ふものとは

18 P243 昭とたけしとヨシ坊と
52年前に見たあの彗星が再び接近するとき、3人の男の中にある少年の記憶が懐かしく蘇る

Morning KC

Kazumi Yamashita

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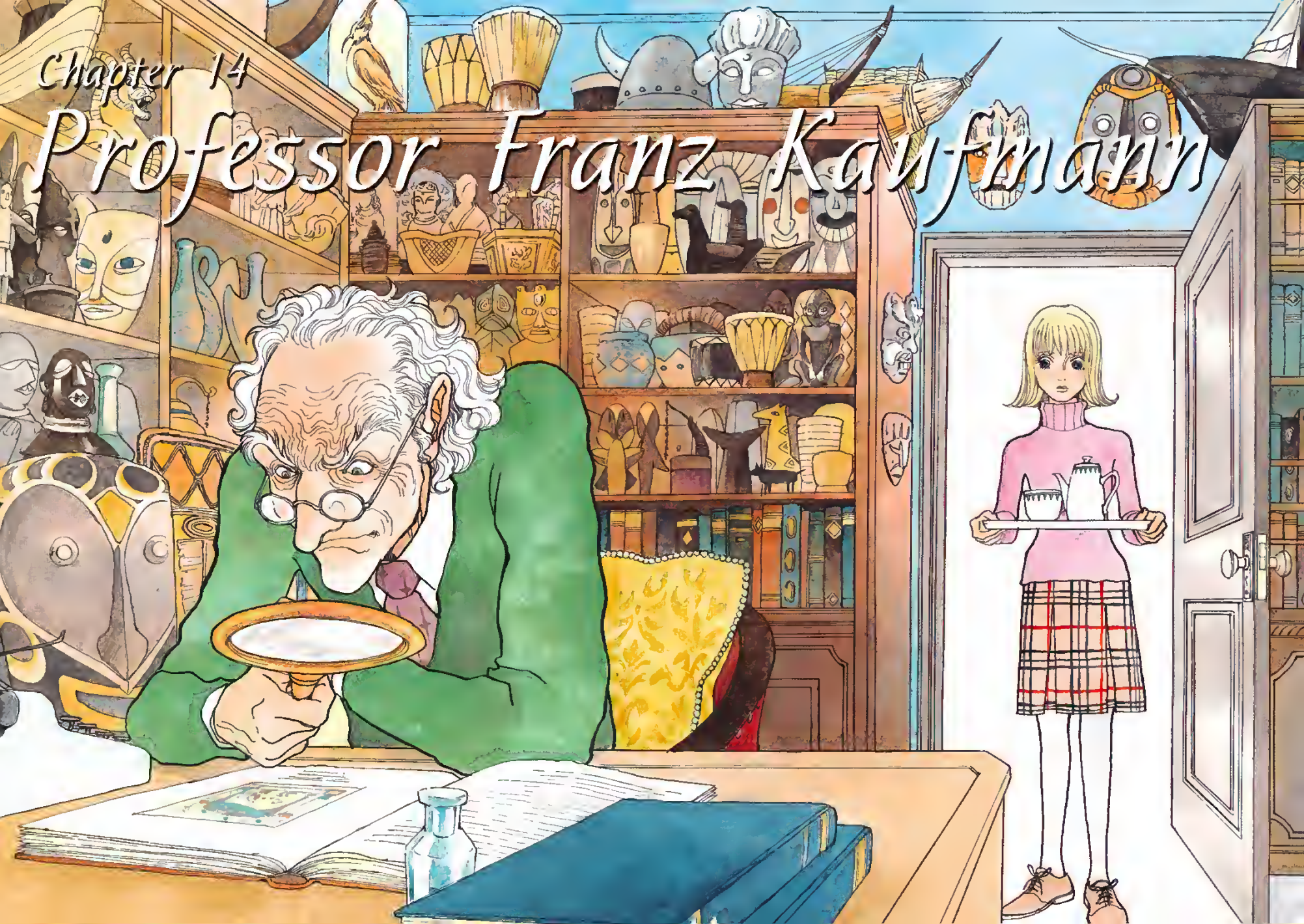
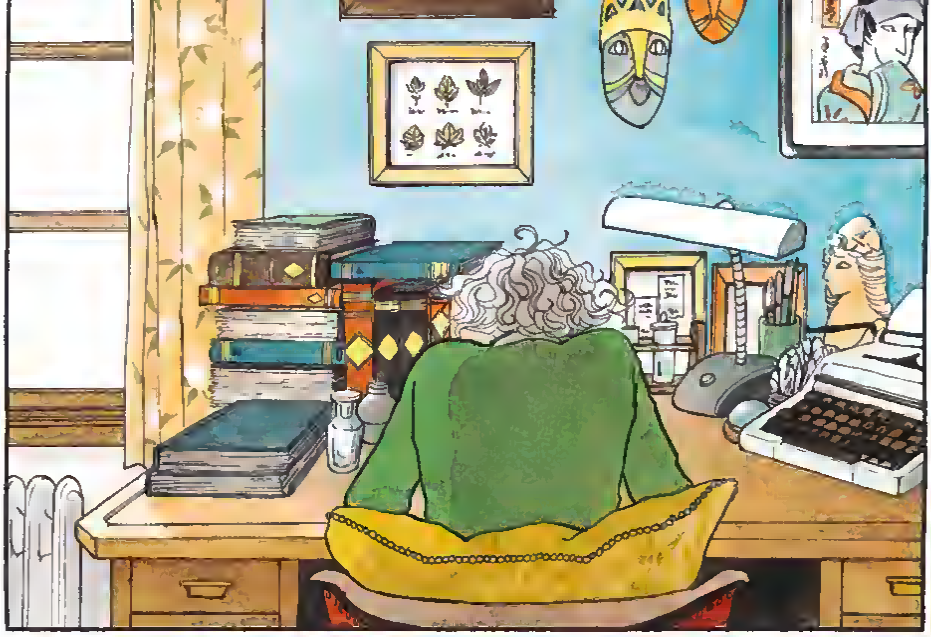
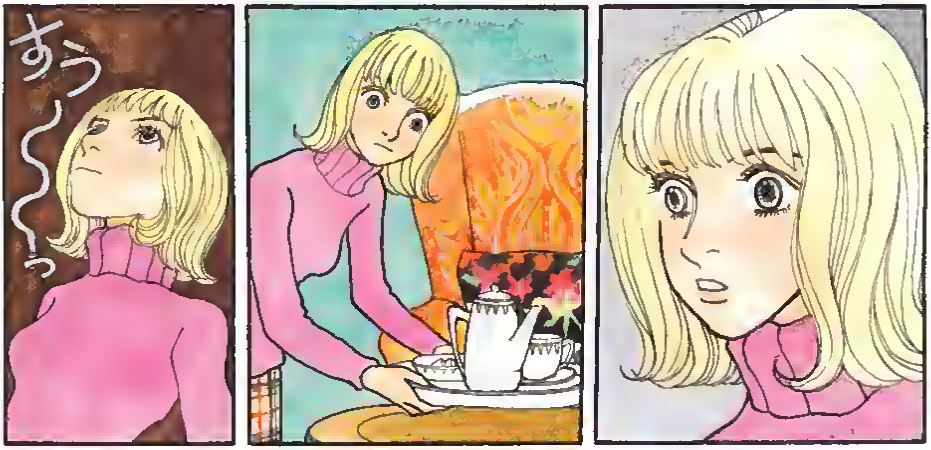
5

山下和美

IN MANY TIMES AND MANY PLACES, A BOY HAS BEEN WATCHING MANKIND,
AND HAS LEFT TRACES OF HIS PRESENCE IN VARIOUS WAYS.

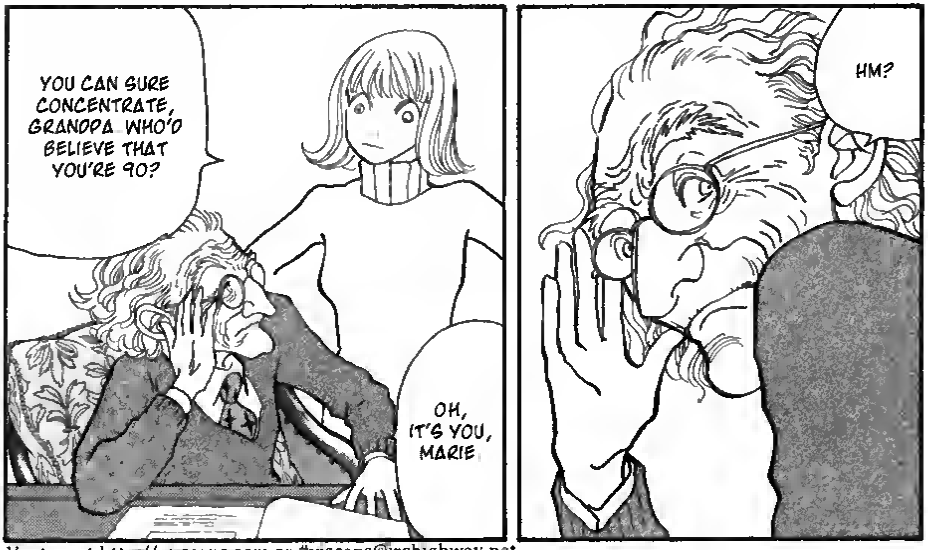

Chapter 14
Professor Franz Kaufmann





SFX: INHALE

Translator: Taylor | Proofreader: Zeroaintdead | Editor: Kuu | Quality Checker: Azuma



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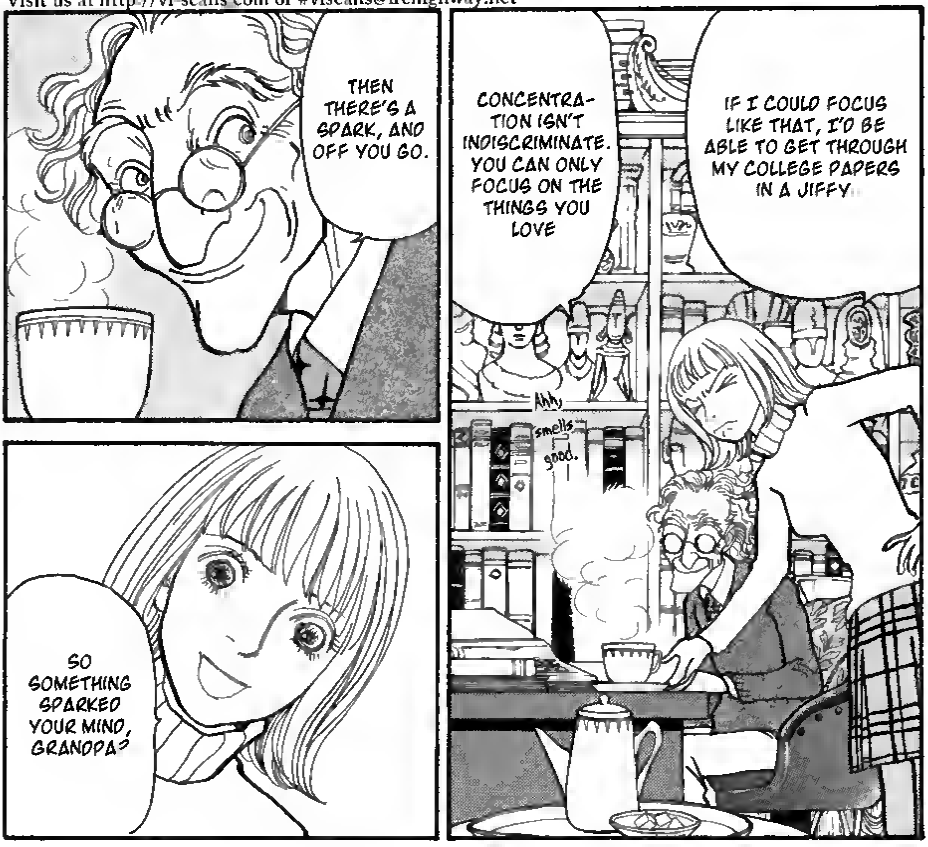
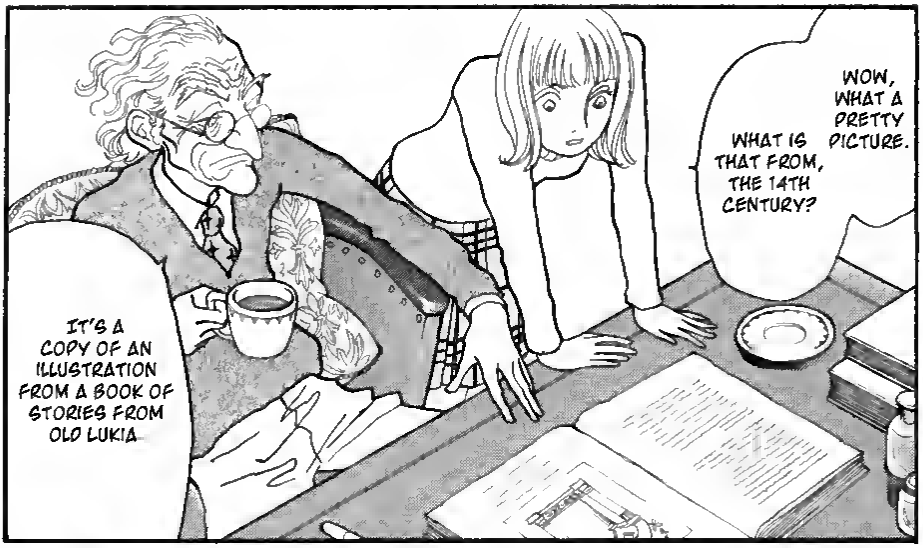
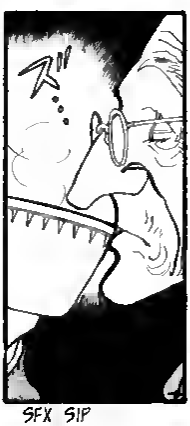
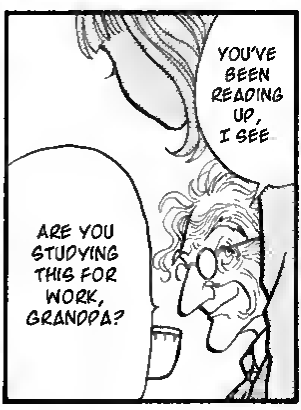
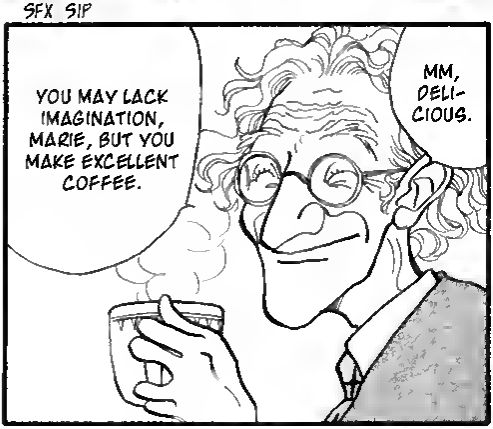

THEN THERE'S A SPARK, AND OFF YOU GO.
CONCENTRATION ISN'T INDISCRIMINATE. YOU CAN ONLY FOCUS ON THE THINGS YOU LOVE
IF I COULD FOCUS LIKE THAT, I'D BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH MY COLLEGE PAPERS IN A JIFFY
Ahhh smells good.
SO SOMETHING SPARKED YOUR MIND, GRANDPA?

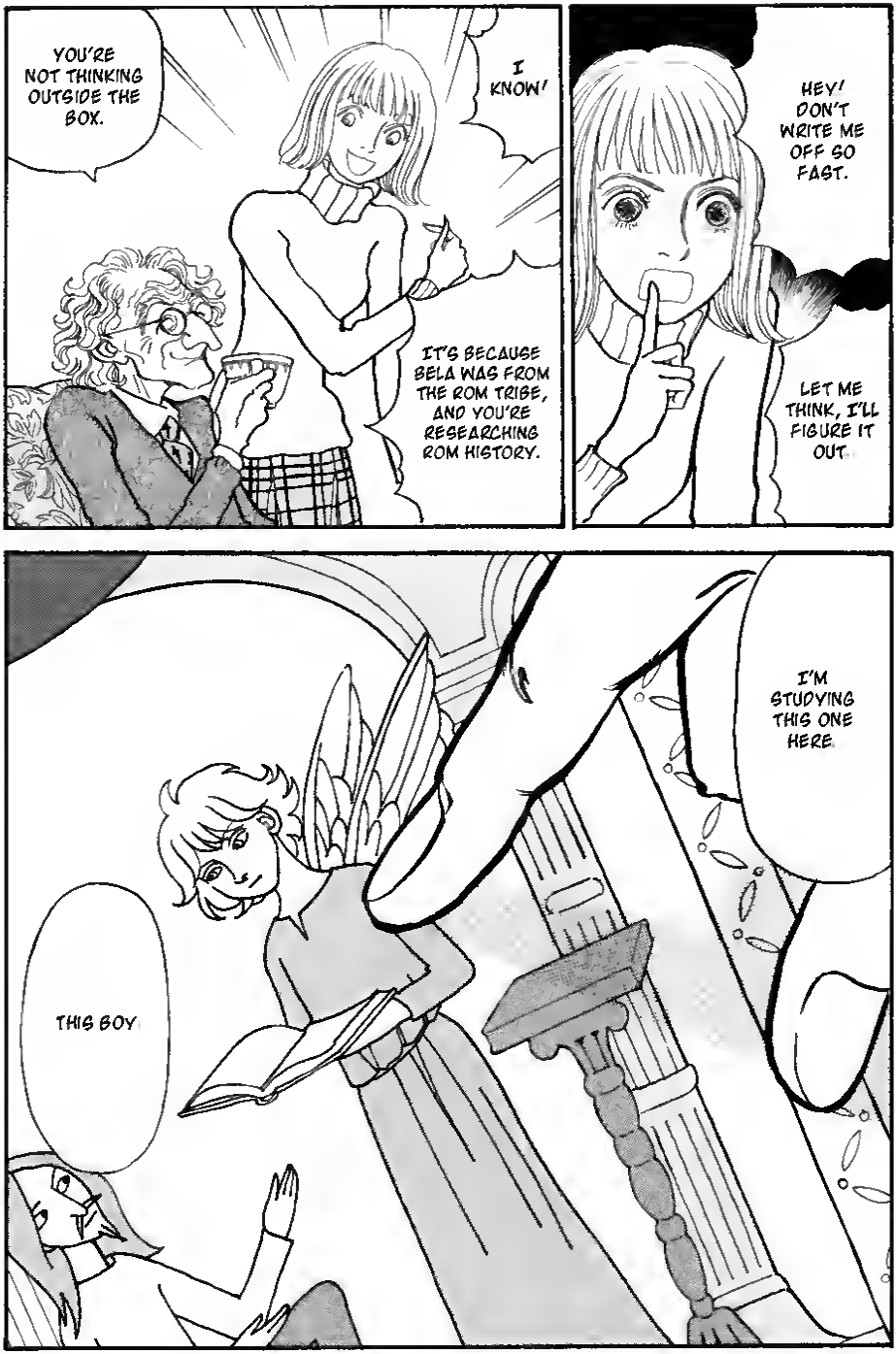

WOW, WHAT A PRETTY PICTURE.
WHAT IS THAT FROM, THE 14TH CENTURY?
IT'S A COPY OF AN ILLUSTRATION FROM A BOOK OF STORIES FROM OLD LUKIA


SFX SIP


YOU'VE BEEN READING UP, I SEE
ARE YOU STUDYING THIS FOR WORK, GRANDPA?


MM, DELI-CIOUS.
YOU MAY LACK IMAGINATION, MARIE, BUT YOU MAKE EXCELLENT COFFEE.

OH, I KNOW THIS.
IT'S THE STORY OF HOW BELA, A PRISONER, STARTED WITH NOTHING AND EVENTUALLY BECAME THE KING


YOU'RE NOT THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX.
I KNOW!
IT'S BECAUSE BELA WAS FROM THE ROM TRIBE, AND YOU'RE RESEARCHING ROM HISTORY.
HEY! DON'T WRITE ME OFF SO FAST.
LET ME THINK, I'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
I'M STUDYING THIS ONE HERE.
THIS BOY

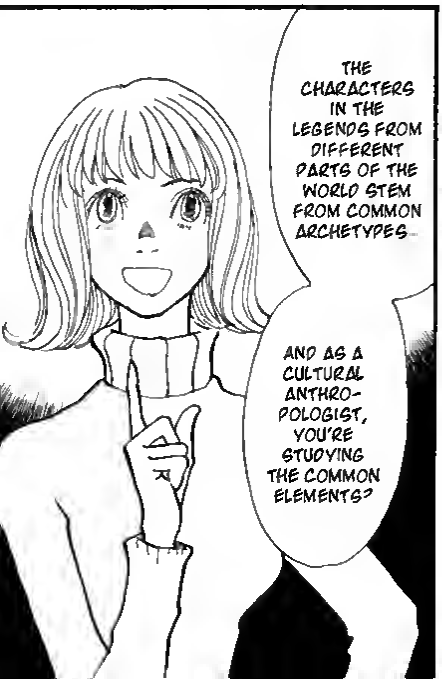
A BOY WITH A MYSTERIOUS POWER AND A KNOWING SMILE APPEARS AND MEDDLES IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN.
THIS IDEA APPEARS IN OLD MYTHS AND URBAN LEGENDS FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

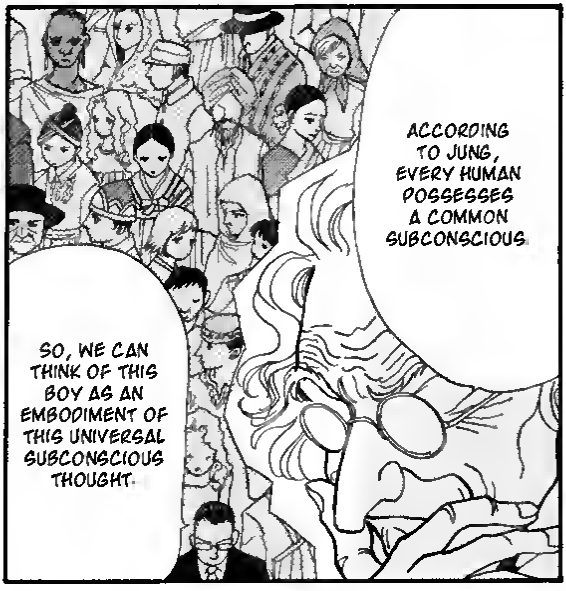
OF A BOY WHO SHOWED A GOLDEN BUFFALO TO A WISE ELDER, WHOSE GREED EVENTUALLY LED TO HIS DEATH.
ONE TRIBE OF NATIVE AMERICANS HAS A LEGEND

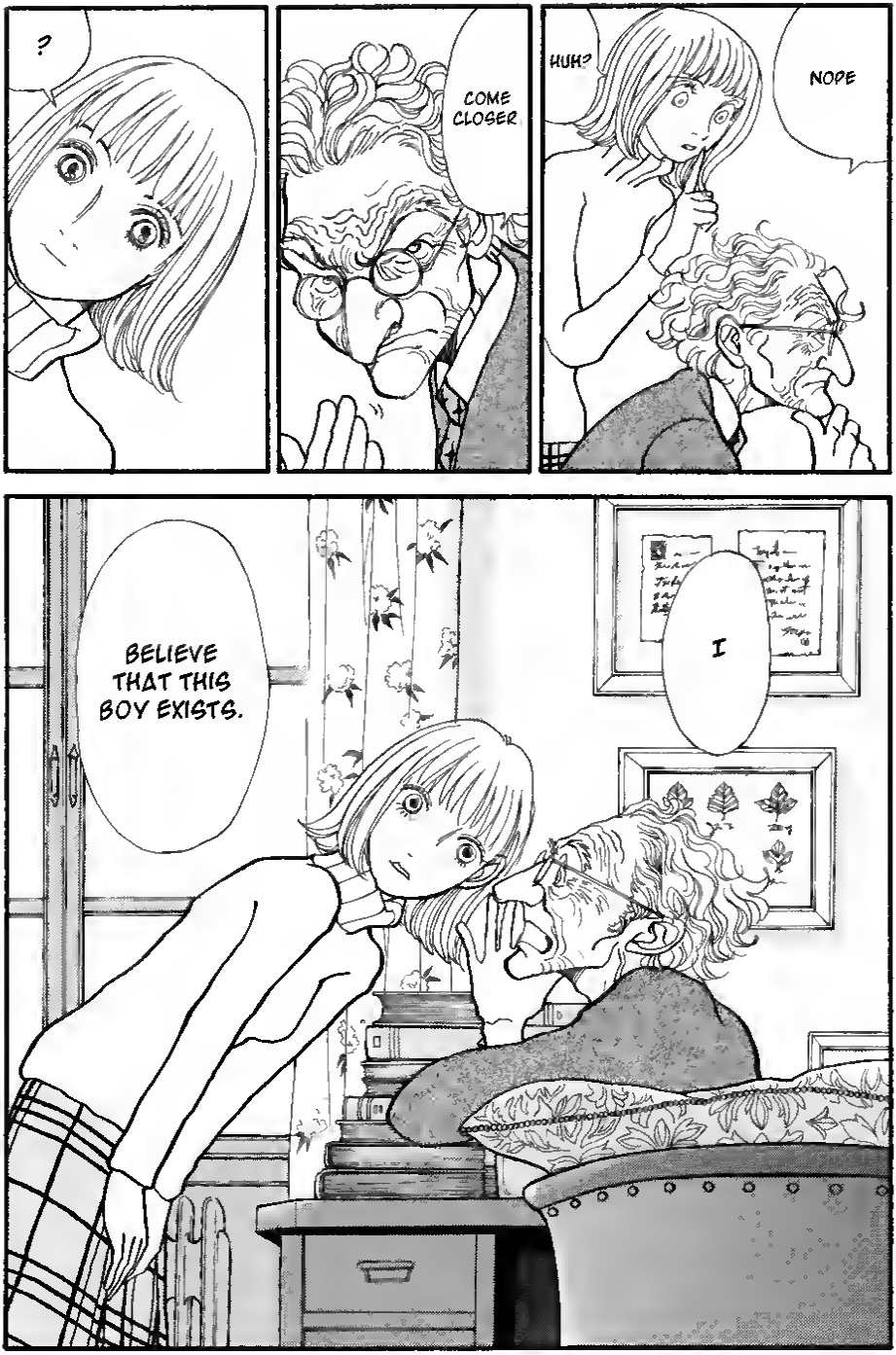
A 12TH CENTURY ENGLISH FOLKTALE TELLS OF A BOY
WHO, WITHOUT WORDS, INCITED THE LIVESTOCK TO REBELLION.
THE DIARY OF A MEMBER OF A FAILED BRITISH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION
DESCRIBED A BOY WHO FORETOLD THEIR DEATHS

WHO LURED ALL OF HAMELIN'S CHILDREN AWAY.
THEN THERE'S "THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN,"
WHERE THE SNOW MAIDEN'S A BOY?
YES, BUT THE IMAGE AND FEEL ARE FUNDAMENTALLY THE SAME.
THERE ARE ALSO VARIATIONS ON THE SNOW MAIDEN TALE THAT FEATURE A BOY.
AND, THERE ARE JAPANESE DEMONS LIKE THE SHUTEN-DOJI OR AMANJAKU.

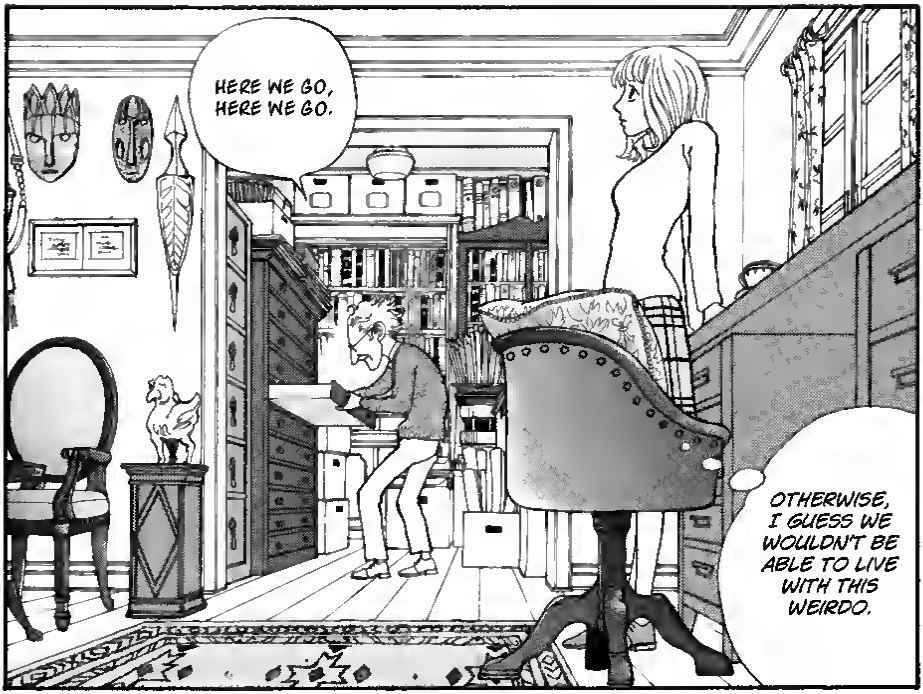
THE BOY WHO APPEARS IN THESE FOLK TALES AND LEGENDS
IS AKIN TO A "DRAGON" OR AN "ANGEL"
I SEE. THE IMAGE...

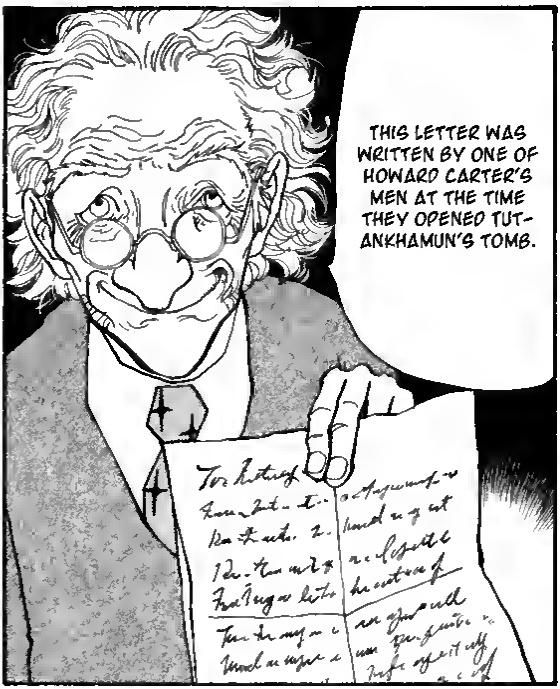

THE CHARACTERS IN THE LEGENDS FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD STEM FROM COMMON ARCHETYPES.
AND AS A CULTURAL ANTHRO-POLOGIST, YOU'RE STUDYING THE COMMON ELEMENTS?

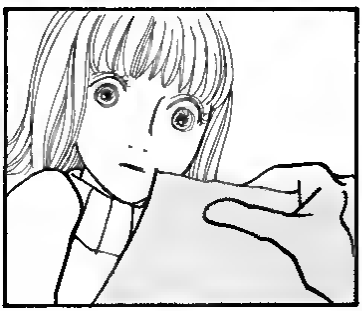

ACCORDING TO JUNG, EVERY HUMAN POSSESSES A COMMON SUBCONSCIOUS.
SO, WE CAN THINK OF THIS BOY AS AN EMBODIMENT OF THIS UNIVERSAL SUBCONSCIOUS THOUGHT.

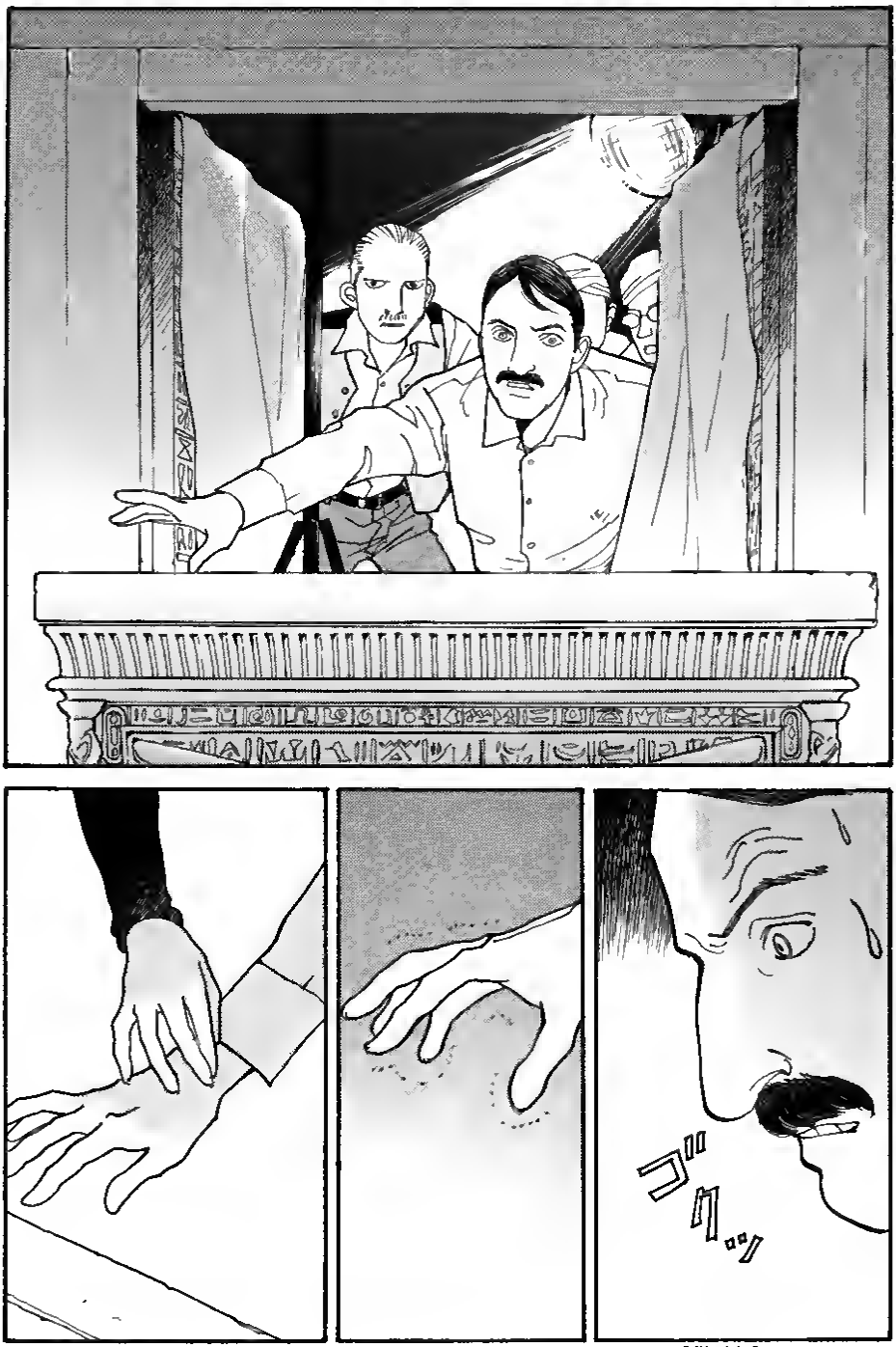

?
COME CLOSER
HUH?
NOPE
BELIEVE THAT THIS BOY EXISTS.
I

NOT AGAIN...
SFX: GRIN
HOLD ON A MINUTE I'LL FETCH SOME EVIDENCE.
OH WELL. WHENEVER I SEE THAT SMILE, ALL THE FIGHT GOES RIGHT OUT OF ME.
Now, where was I?
COME TO THINK OF IT, GRANDMA SAYS THE SAME THING. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, SHE'LL FORGIVE HIM EVERY TIME SHE SEES THAT SMILE.


HERE WE GO, HERE WE GO.
OTHERWISE, I GUESS WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH THIS WEIRDO.


THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN BY ONE OF HOWARD CARTER'S MEN AT THE TIME THEY OPENED TUT-ANKHAMUN'S TOMB.

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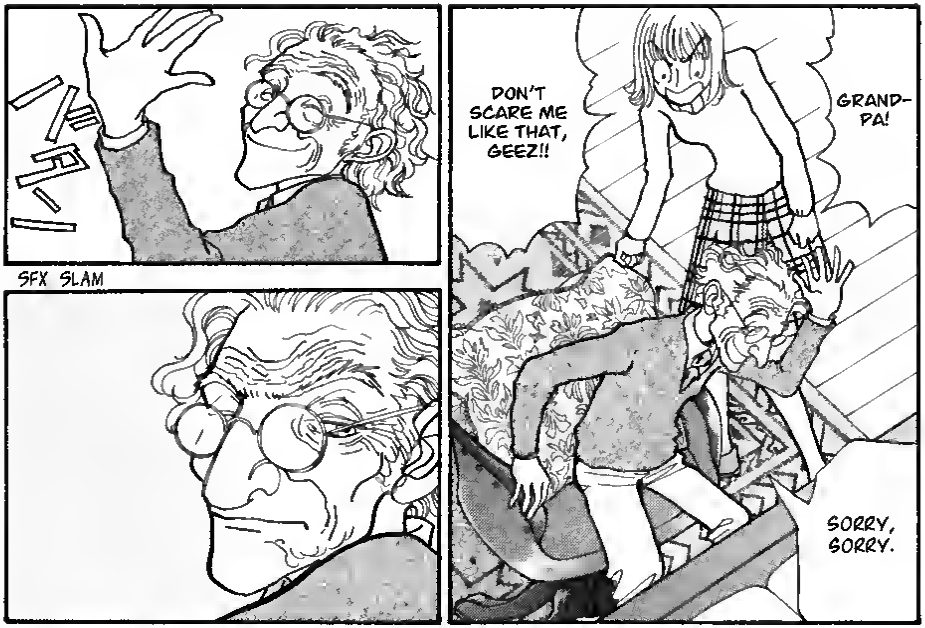
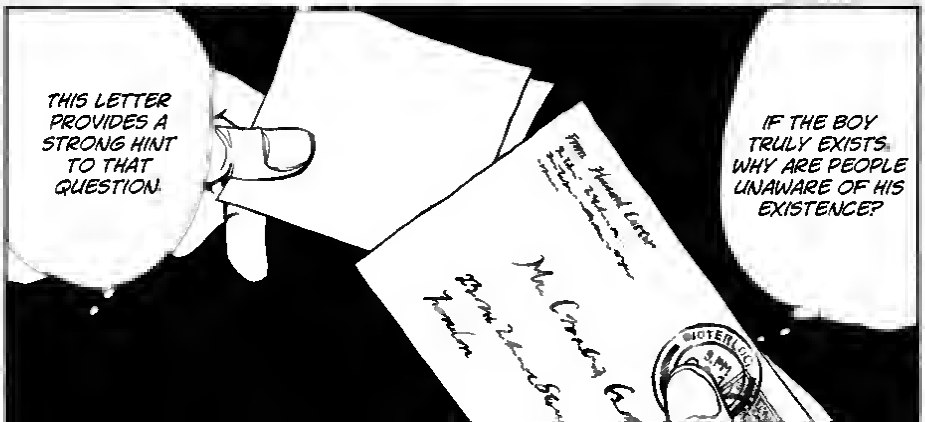
クリ
SFX: GULP

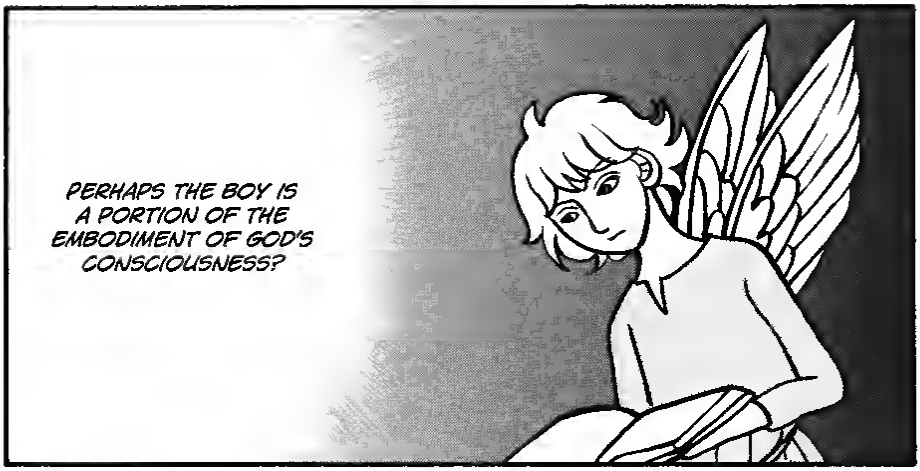
THEN, A BOY APPEARED AND WHISPERED SOMETHING TO CARTER
AS HE FACED TUTANKHAMUN'S SARCOPHAGUS, HE SAW CARTER HESITATE.
WHEN HE LATER QUIZZED CARTER ABOUT THE BOY,
CARTER, STRANGELY, HAD NO MEMORY OF HIM.

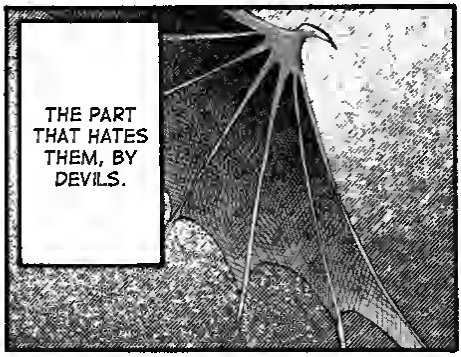
THE MAN WHO SENT THIS LETTER DIED IN AN ACCIDENT MERE DAYS AFTER WRITING IT.
JUST KIDDING
SFX: SHOVE

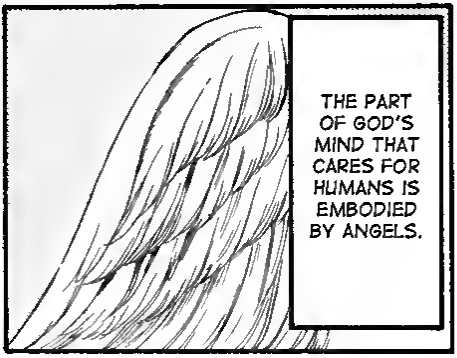

ハーイ
SFX SLAM
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT, GEEZ!!
GRAND-PA!
SORRY, SORRY.

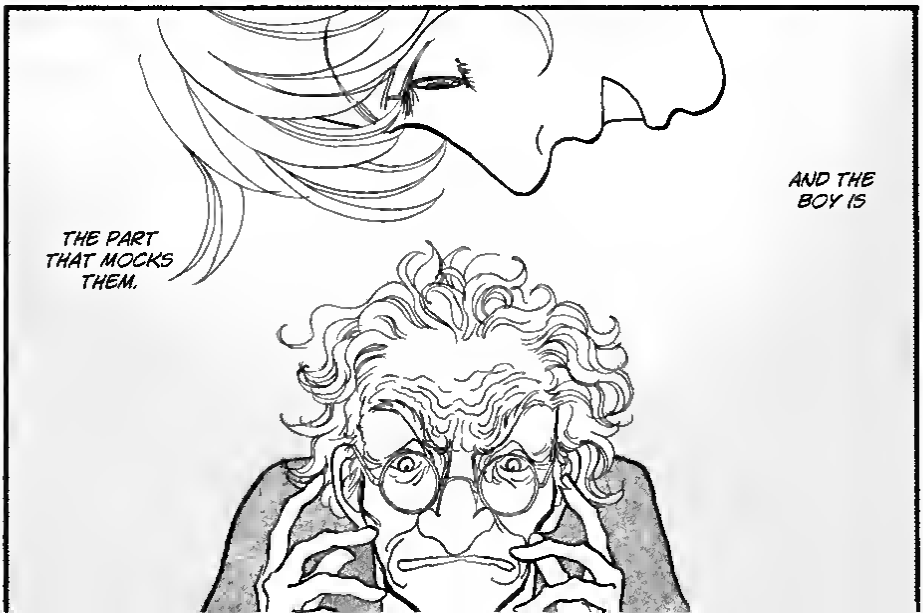

THIS LETTER PROVIDES A STRONG HINT TO THAT QUESTION.
IF THE BOY TRULY EXISTS, WHY ARE PEOPLE UNAWARE OF HIS EXISTENCE?

FURTHER-MORE,
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE BOY IS A MANIFESTATION OF MANKIND'S COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS.
THE BOY CAN ERASE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS EXISTENCE FROM HUMANS' MEMORIES.
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY LITTLE VISUAL EVIDENCE EXISTS FROM MORE RECENT TIMES.
THE EMBODIMENT OF A PERSON'S MIND WOULDN'T TRIFLE WITH THEM SO MERCILESSLY.


PERHAPS THE BOY IS A PORTION OF THE EMBODIMENT OF GOD'S CONSCIOUSNESS?


THE PART THAT HATES THEM, BY DEVILS.


THE PART OF GOD'S MIND THAT CARES FOR HUMANS IS EMBODIED BY ANGELS.


THE PART THAT MOCKS THEM.
AND THE BOY IS

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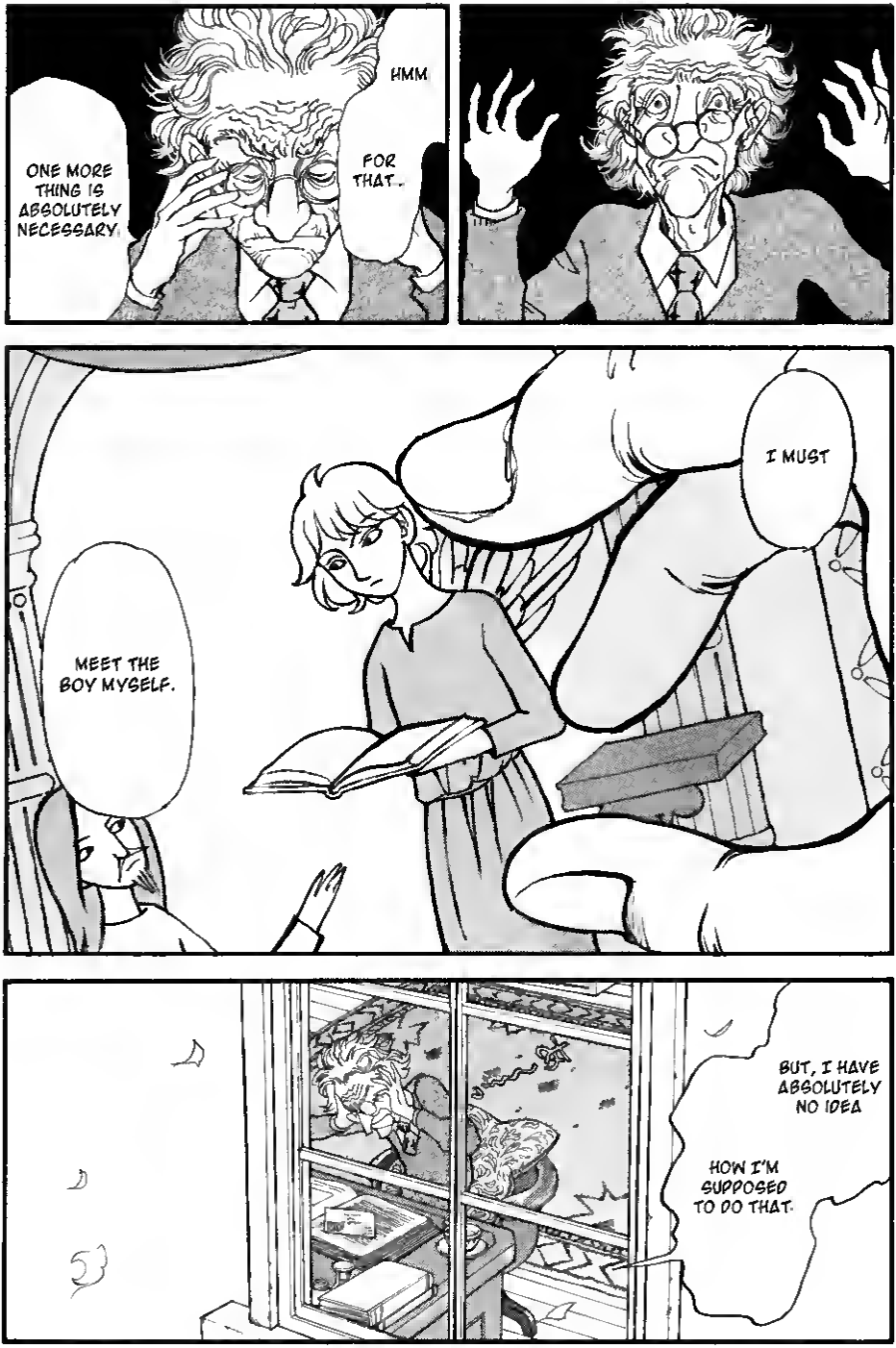
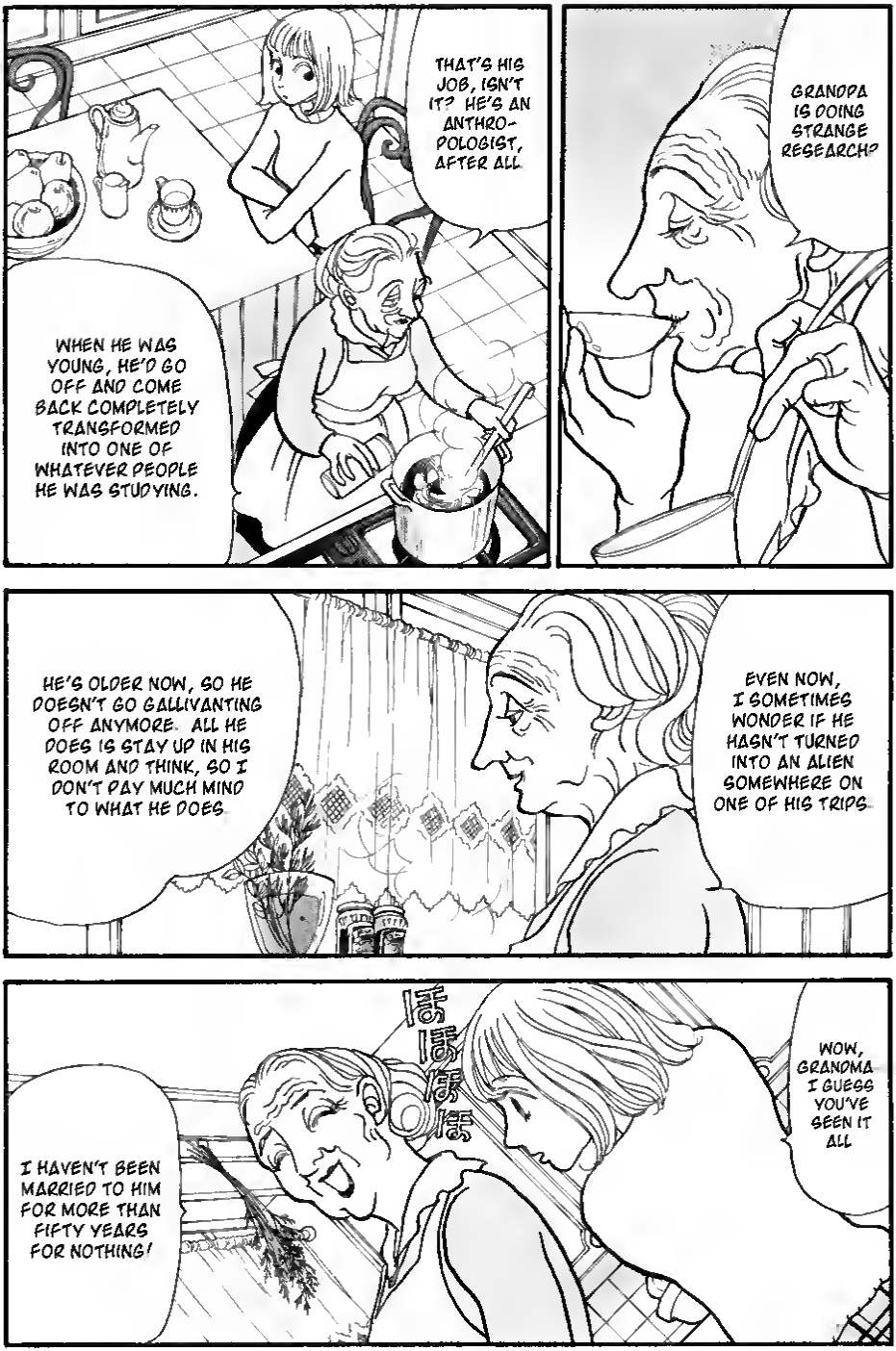
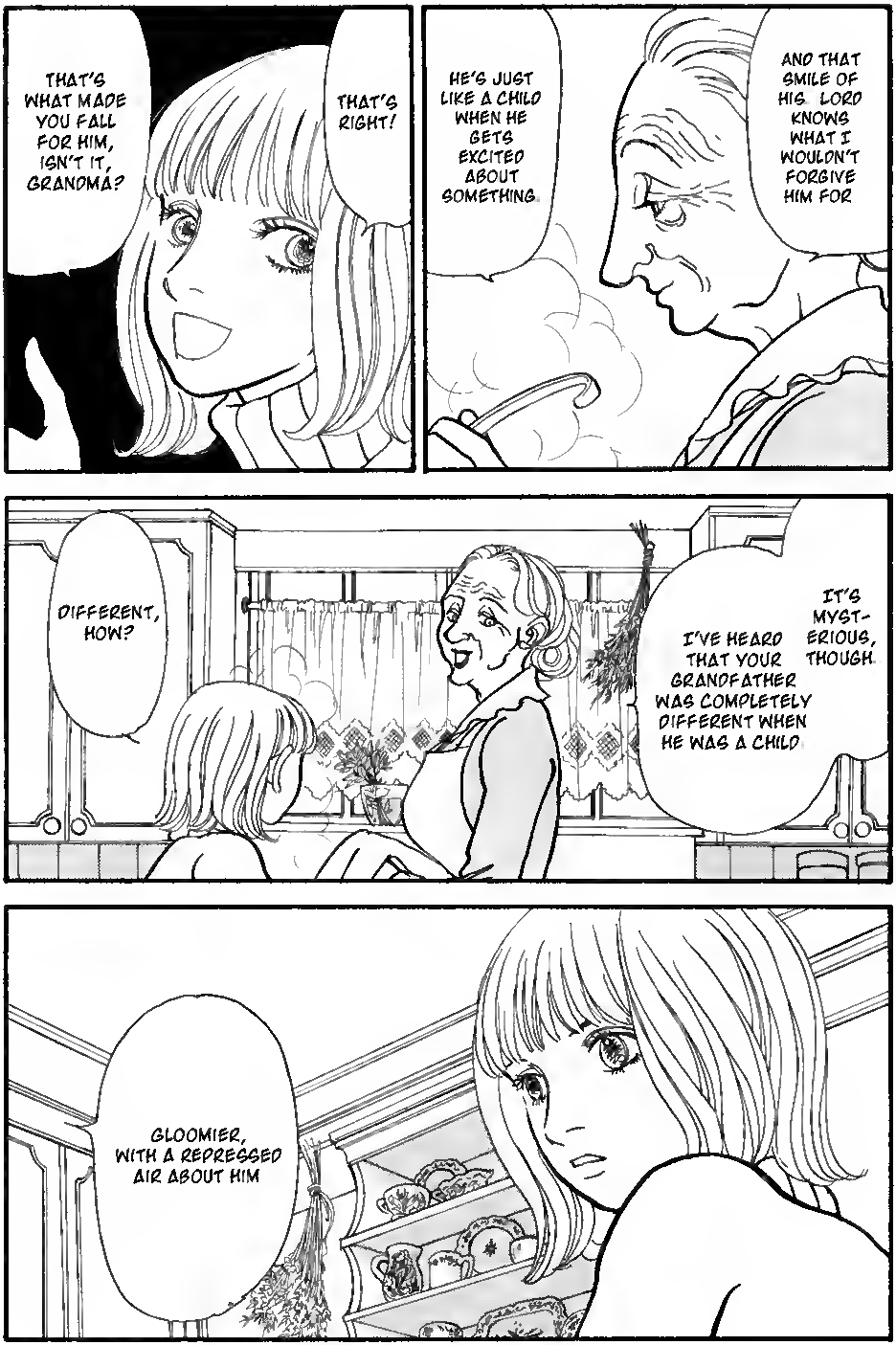
SFX: SLAPS

I WILL UNCOVER THE SECRET OF THE BOY'S EXISTENCE,

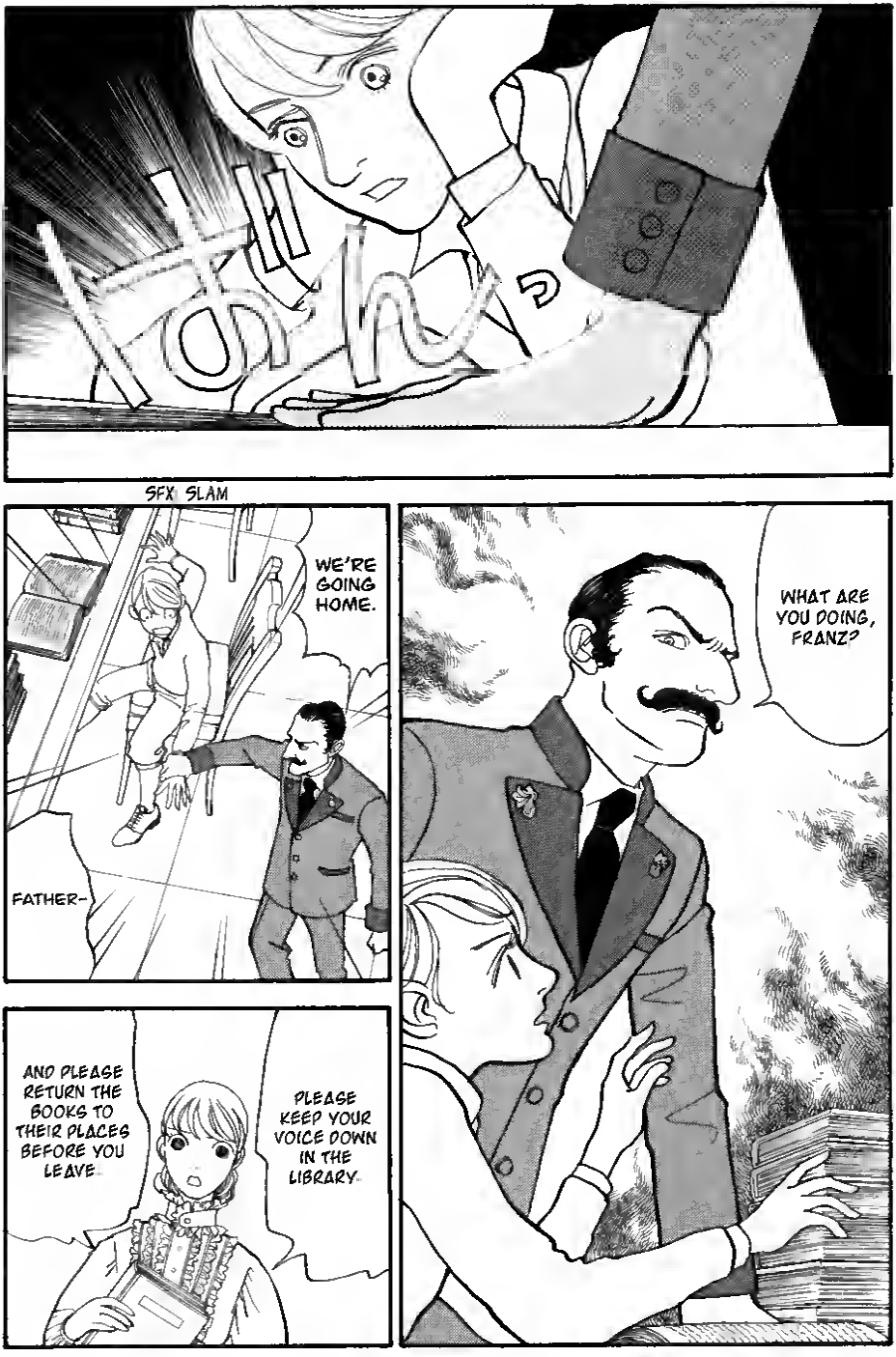
AND PROVE THE EXISTENCE OF GOD!

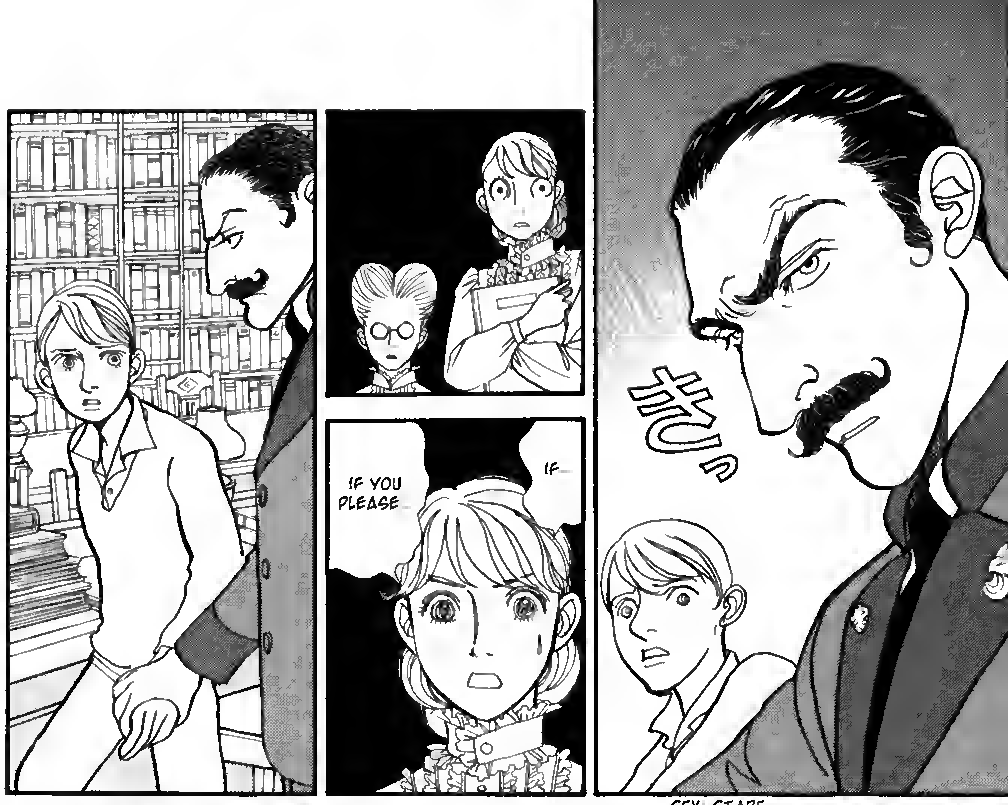

HMM
FOR THAT.
ONE MORE THING IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.
I MUST
MEET THE BOY MYSELF.
BUT, I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA
HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO DO THAT.


THAT'S HIS JOB, ISN'T IT? HE'S AN ANTHRO-POLOGIST, AFTER ALL.
WHEN HE WAS YOUNG, HE'D GO OFF AND COME BACK COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED INTO ONE OF WHATEVER PEOPLE HE WAS STUDYING.
GRANDPA IS DOING STRANGE RESEARCH?
HE'S OLDER NOW, SO HE DOESN'T GO GALLIVANTING OFF ANYMORE. ALL HE DOES IS STAY UP IN HIS ROOM AND THINK, SO I DON'T PAY MUCH MIND TO WHAT HE DOES.
EVEN NOW, I SOMETIMES WONDER IF HE HASN'T TURNED INTO AN ALIEN SOMEWHERE ON ONE OF HIS TRIPS.
I HAVEN'T BEEN MARRIED TO HIM FOR MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS FOR NOTHING!
SFX HOHOHOHO
WOW, GRANDMA I GUESS YOU'VE SEEN IT ALL


THAT'S WHAT MADE YOU FALL FOR HIM, ISN'T IT, GRANDMA?
THAT'S RIGHT!
HE'S JUST LIKE A CHILD WHEN HE GETS EXCITED ABOUT SOMETHING.
AND THAT SMILE OF HIS. LORD KNOWS WHAT I WOULDN'T FORGIVE HIM FOR
DIFFERENT, HOW?
I'VE HEARD THAT YOUR GRANDFATHER WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WHEN HE WAS A CHILD
IT'S MYST-ERIOUS, THOUGH.
GLOOMIER, WITH A REPRESSED AIR ABOUT HIM

EVERY DAY, HE'D SIT HIMSELF DOWN IN THE LIBRARY...
LOOK AT THAT BOY
HE HASN'T MOVED FOR FIVE HOURS

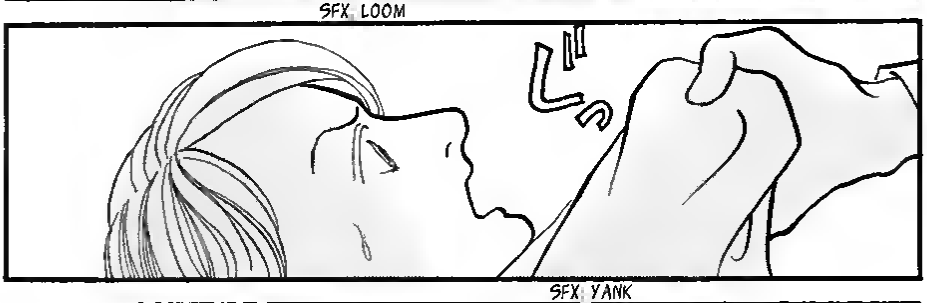

SFX: SLAM
WE'RE GOING HOME.
FATHER-
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, FRANZ?
AND PLEASE RETURN THE BOOKS TO THEIR PLACES BEFORE YOU LEAVE.
PLEASE KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN IN THE LIBRARY.



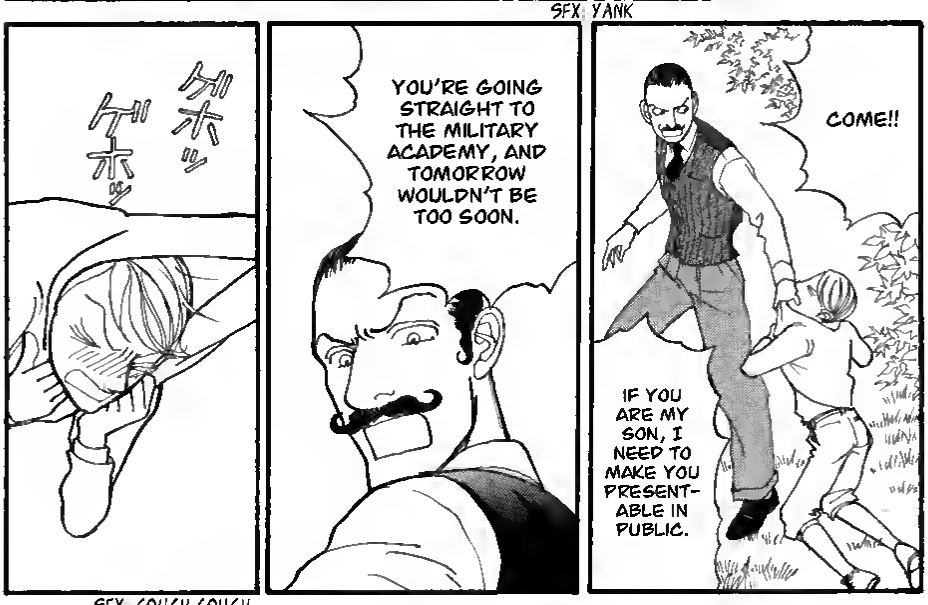
SFX: STARE

!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STRIKE BACK!
IN A WAR, A COWARD LIKE YOU WOULD BE DEAD IN A MINUTE.
YOU WILL BE A SOLDIER.
SFX: WHISTLE, CHIRRUP
SFX TWEE-TWEE-TWEET

SFX: LOOM

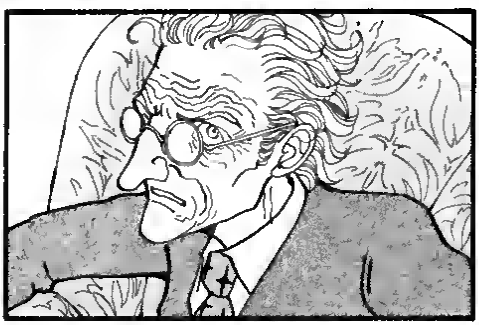


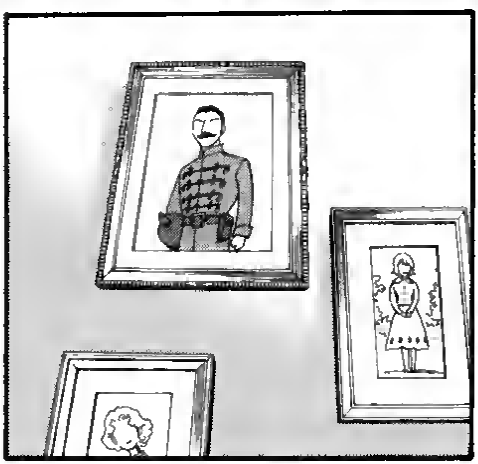
SFX: YANK

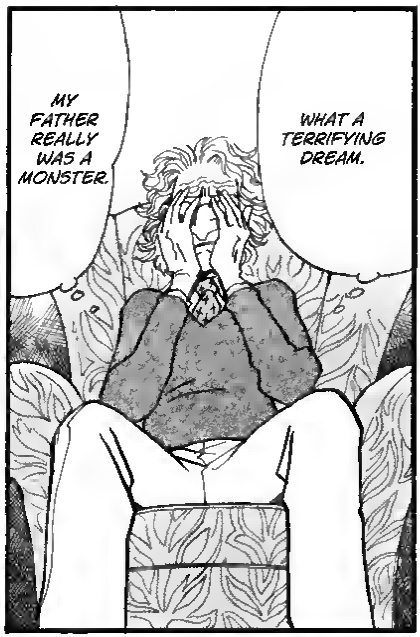

YOU'RE GOING STRAIGHT TO THE MILITARY ACADEMY, AND TOMORROW WOULDN'T BE TOO SOON.
COME!!
IF YOU ARE MY SON, I NEED TO MAKE YOU PRESENT-ABLE IN PUBLIC.

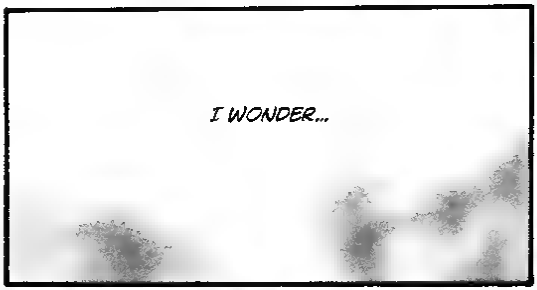
SFX: COUGH COUGH

SFX: GASP



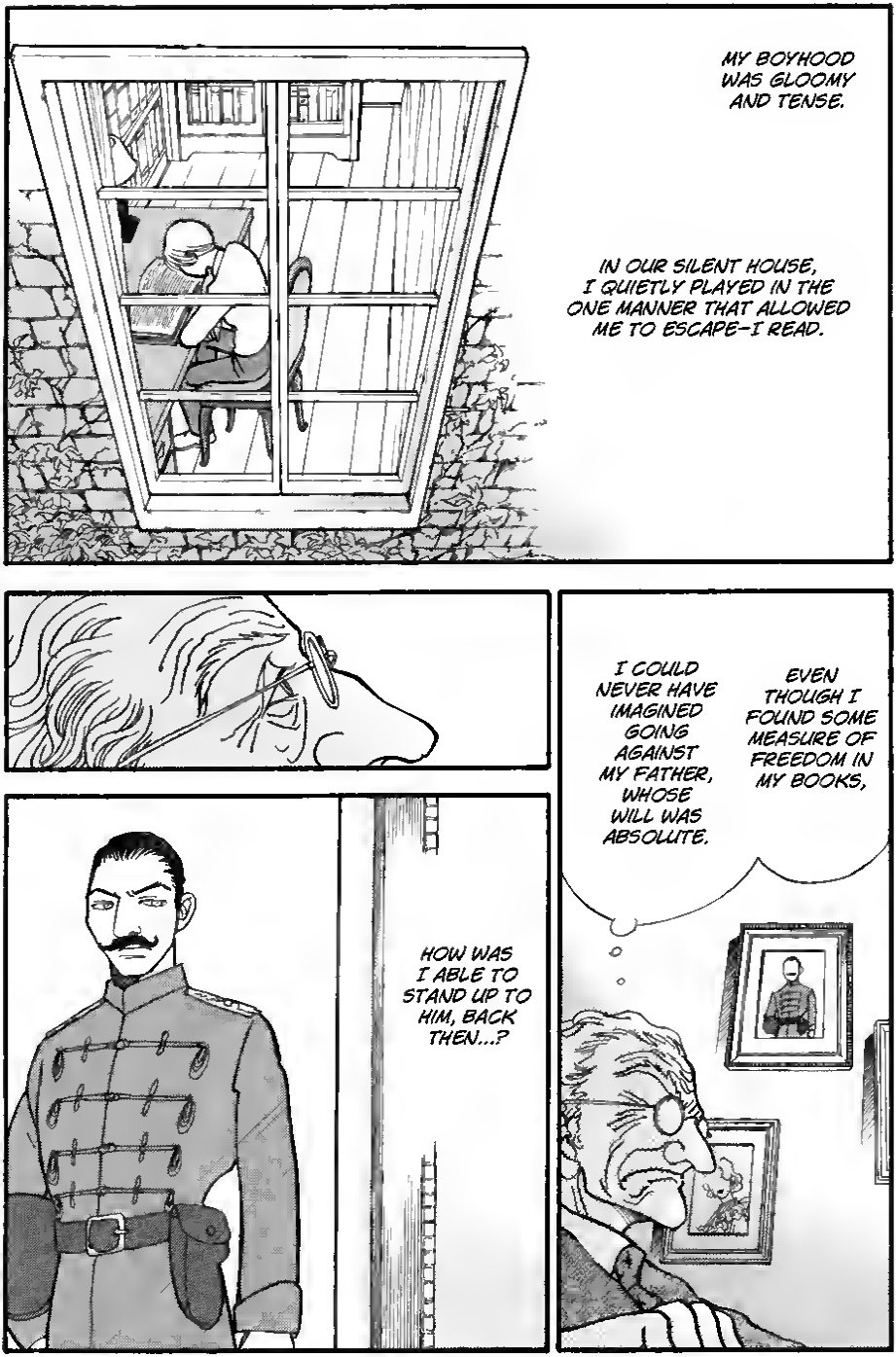


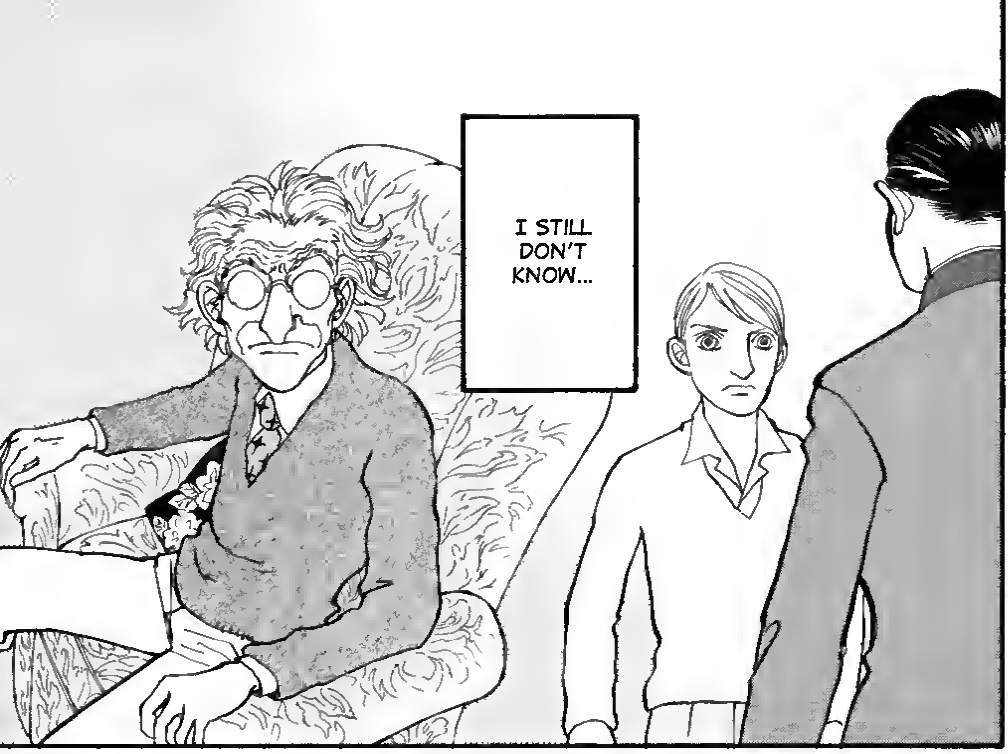

MY FATHER REALLY WAS A MONSTER.
WHAT A TERRIFYING DREAM.

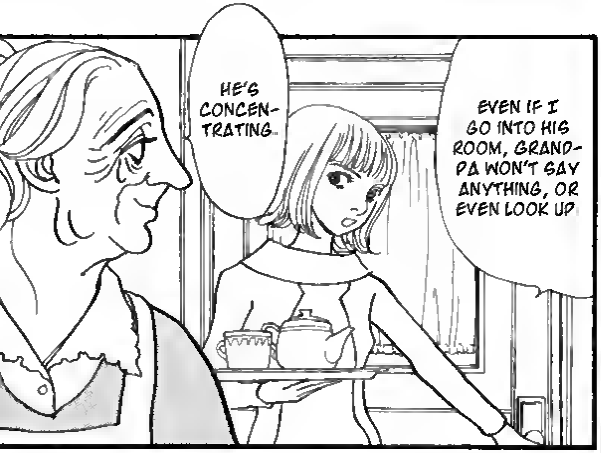

I WONDER...

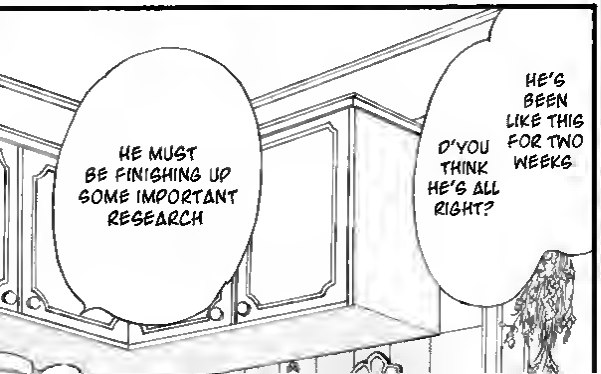
I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD EVEN A SHRED OF THAT KIND OF COURAGE BACK THEN.

WHERE DID I FIND THE COURAGE TO FACE MY DICTATOR OF A FATHER
AND DECLARE THAT I INTENDED TO PURSUE MY OWN GOALS?

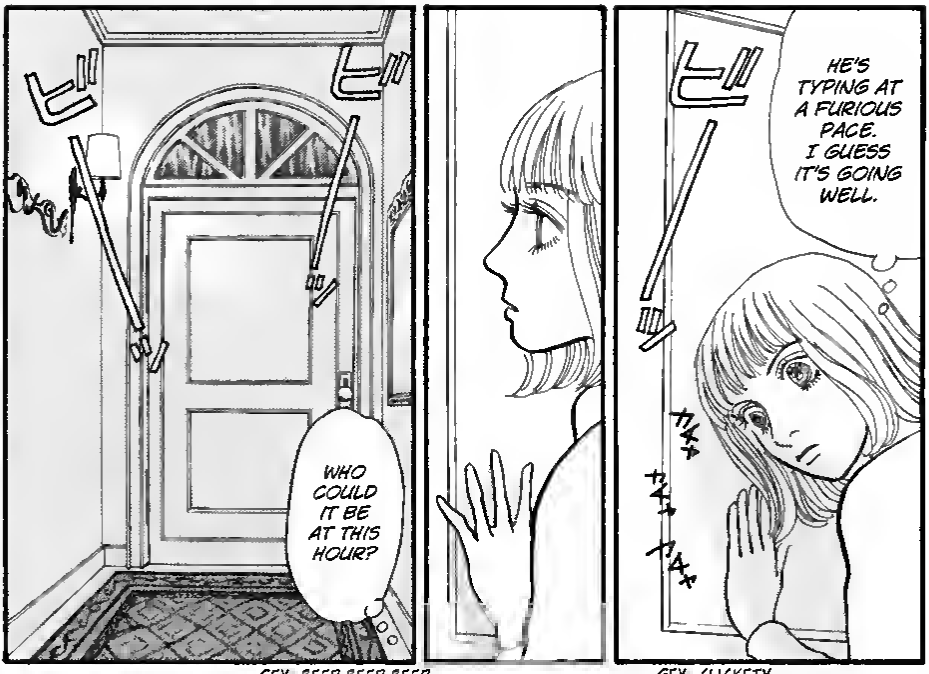

MY BOYHOOD WAS GLOOMY AND TENSE.
IN OUR SILENT HOUSE, I QUIETLY PLAYED IN THE ONE MANNER THAT ALLOWED ME TO ESCAPE—I READ.
EVEN THOUGH I FOUND SOME MEASURE OF FREEDOM IN MY BOOKS,
I COULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED GOING AGAINST MY FATHER, WHOSE WILL WAS ABSOLUTE.
HOW WAS I ABLE TO STAND UP TO HIM, BACK THEN...?


I STILL DON'T KNOW...


HE'S CONCEN-TRATING.
EVEN IF I GO INTO HIS ROOM, GRAND-PA WON'T SAY ANYTHING, OR EVEN LOOK UP

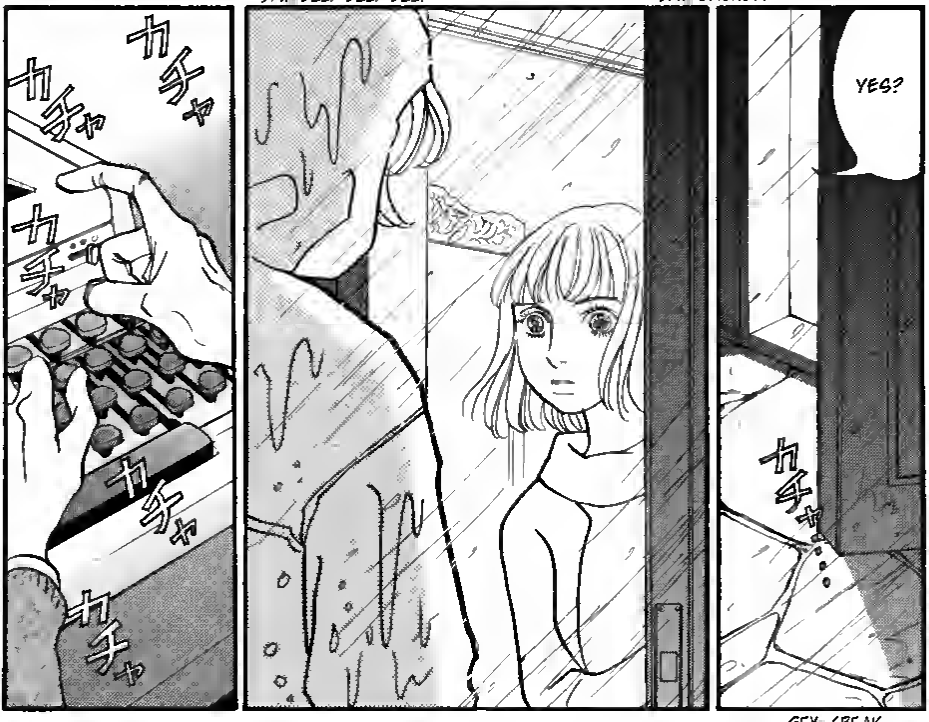

HE MUST BE FINISHING UP SOME IMPORTANT RESEARCH
D'YOU THINK HE'S ALL RIGHT?
HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR TWO WEEKS

I WONDER IF HE'S WORKING ON SOMETHING ABOUT THAT BOY...
HMM...
SFX: CLACKETY CLACK
SFX: WHOOOOSH
SFX: CLACKETY CLACK
SFX: CLICKETY CLICKETY



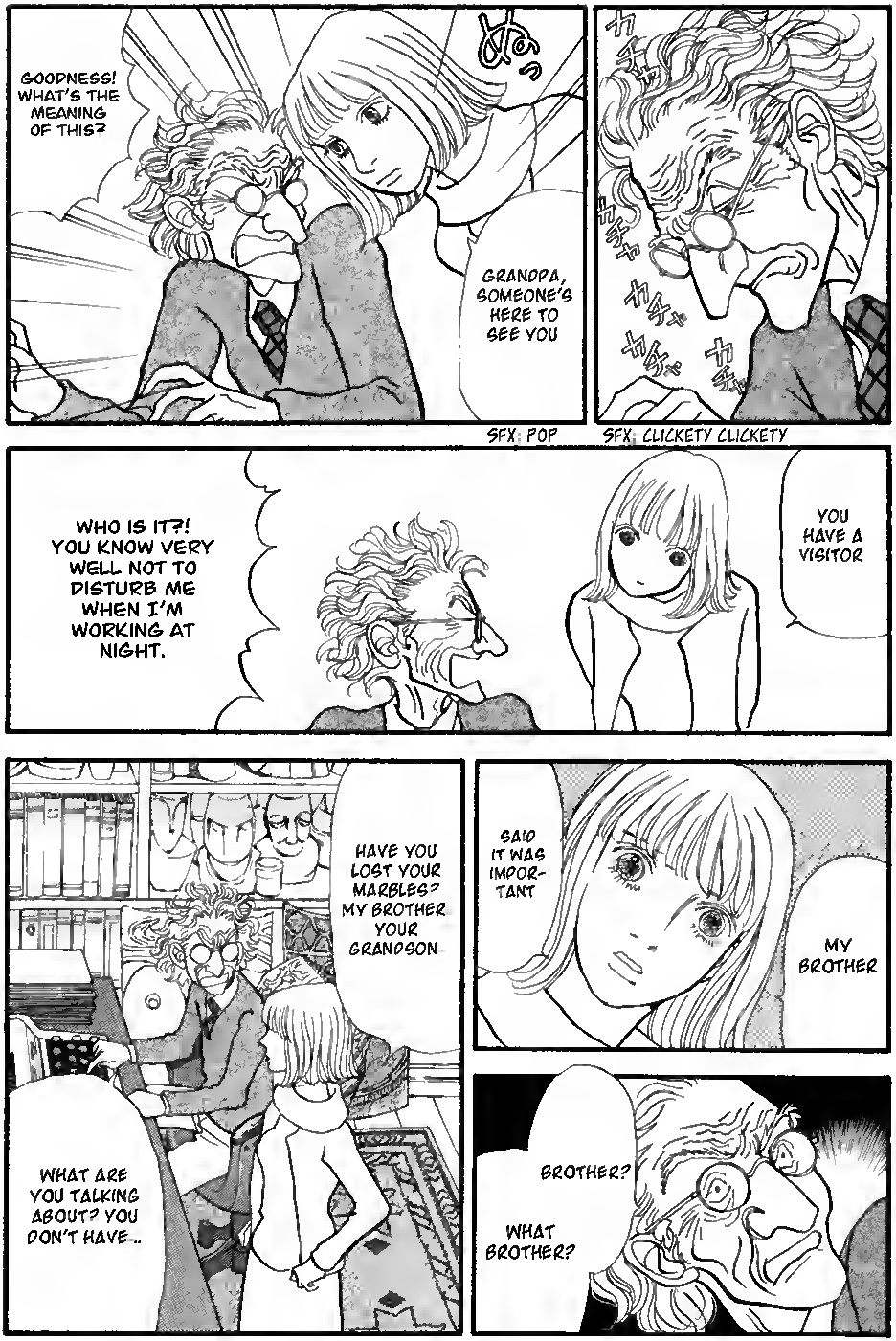
SFX: BEEP BEEP BEEP

SFX: CLICKETY



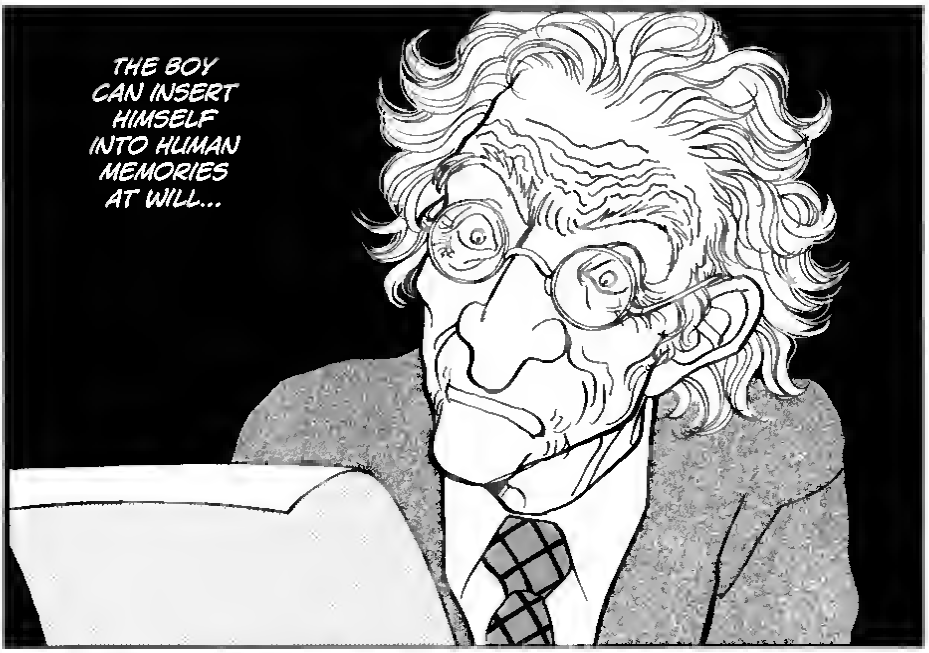
SFX: CLACKETY CLACKETY

SFX: CREAK


GOODNESS! WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
GRANDPA, SOMEONE'S HERE TO SEE YOU
SFX: POP
SFX: CLICKETY CLICKETY
WHO IS IT?! YOU KNOW VERY WELL NOT TO DISTURB ME WHEN I'M WORKING AT NIGHT.
YOU HAVE A VISITOR
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MARBLES? MY BROTHER YOUR GRANDSON
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU DON'T HAVE...
SAID IT WAS IMPOR-TANT
MY BROTHER
BROTHER?
WHAT BROTHER?

Der Jugend kann die Gedächtnisse der Anderen beherrschen, wie es ihm beliebt.

The Boy can insert himself into human memories at will..



I'LL GO GET HIM.
ALL RIGHT... SHOW HIM IN.. AND THEN, OFF WITH YOU..
ハーン
SFX: SHUT
カン
カン
カン
SFX: STEP STEP STEP

knock
knock
SFX: WHOOOOSH
LONG TIME NO SEE, GRAND-FATHER.
I'D LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THIS MYSTERIOUS BOY YOU'VE BEEN RESEARCHING.

THE BOY IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS DOOR.
...WHAT WOULD HAPPEN... IF I OPENED IT...?!

IF THE BOY EXISTS, THEN ANGELS, DEMONS, AND EVEN HELL MAY ALSO EXIST.
IF I DISCOVER HIS SECRET, IT SURELY WON'T END WITH HIM MOCKING ME A LITTLE.

HE MIGHT EVEN DRAG ME STRAIGHT DOWN TO HELL.

I WANT TO SEE.
BUT...
HUMANS ARE SILLY, AREN'T THEY?

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, PROFESSOR KAUFMANN.

IT'S
GOD.

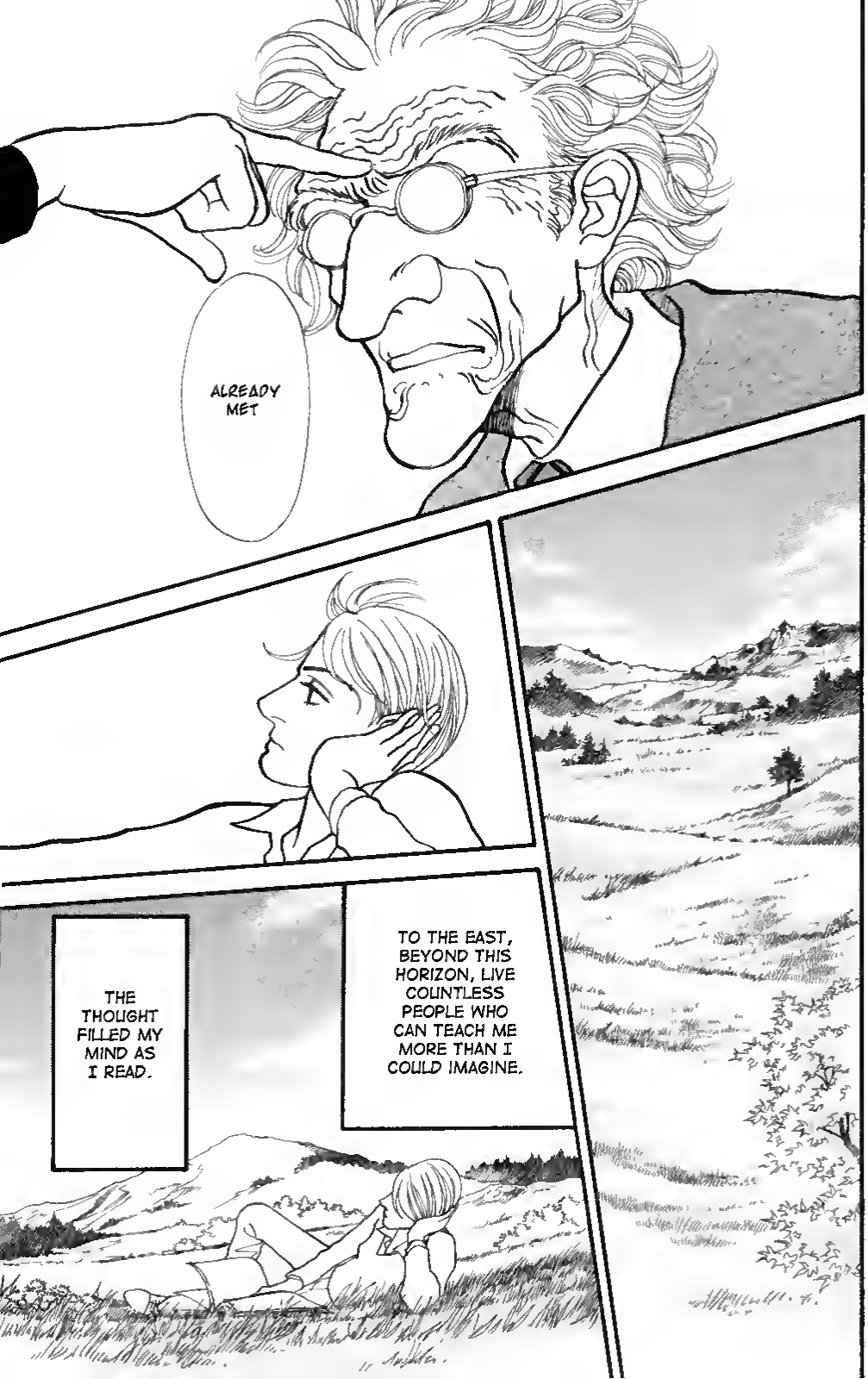
HEHE.
I KNOW YOU, PROFESSOR KAUFMANN.
I KNEW VERY WELL THAT YOU WOULD SUCCUMB TO CURIOSITY AND OPEN THE DOOR
YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER TO HESITATE.
カタ
カタ
カタ
SFX: RATTLE RATTLE

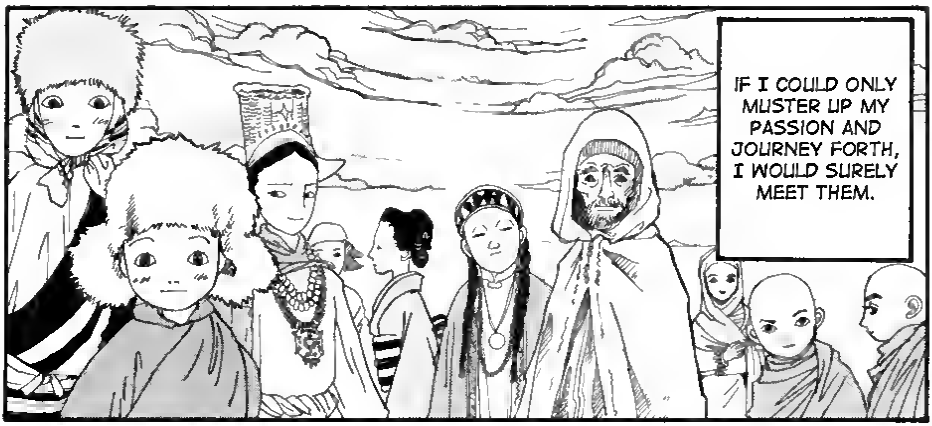
WHAT?
SFX: WHOOSH
SFX: FUMBLE FUMBLE
SFX: CLICK CLICK CLICK
SFX: POP

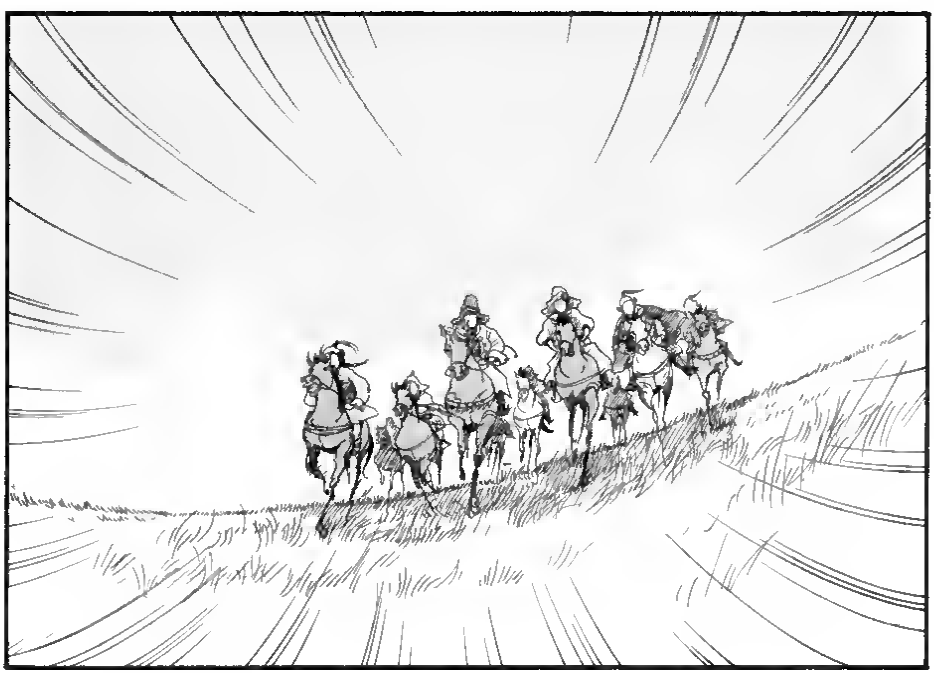
BABEL AND ICARUS CERTAINLY HAD IT COMING.
BUT, YOU ARE MISTAKEN.
HAVE YOU
COME TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME BECAUSE I TRIFLED WITH GOD?
IF YOU HAVE FAITH, HOWEVER, SHALL I OBLIGE AND MAKE SPORT OF YOU?
THERE IS NO GOD IN THIS WORLD.

AND HOW..
WOULD YOU DO THAT?
ゴクッ
I COULD FIND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN YOUR HEART, AND RIP IT OUT BY THE ROOTS.
HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
HOW INDEED...? WELL..
TO ME..
THE MOST IMPOR-TANT THING...

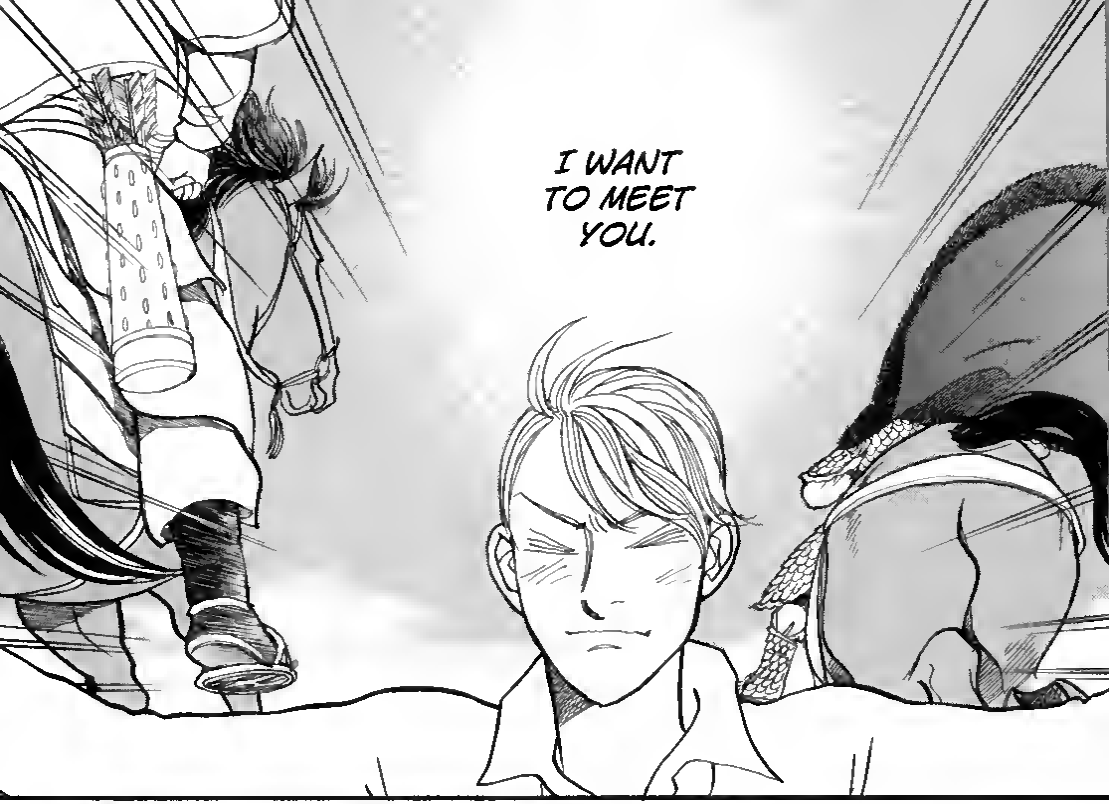
...
WHY, THAT'S
THAT'S
THAT'S YOU! ALL THE THINKING I'VE BEEN DOING IS ABOUT YOU.
YOU SEEM TO BE FORGETTING.
YOU AND I HAVE..

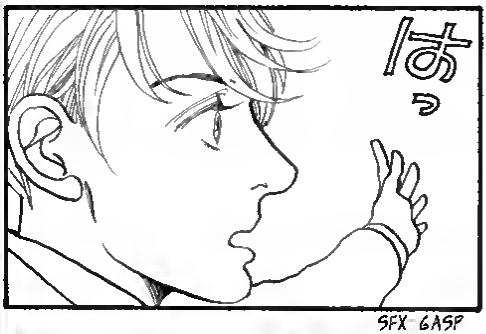

ALREADY MET
TO THE EAST, BEYOND THIS HORIZON, LIVE COUNTLESS PEOPLE WHO CAN TEACH ME MORE THAN I COULD IMAGINE.
THE THOUGHT FILLED MY MIND AS I READ.


IF I COULD ONLY MUSTER UP MY PASSION AND JOURNEY FORTH, I WOULD SURELY MEET THEM.



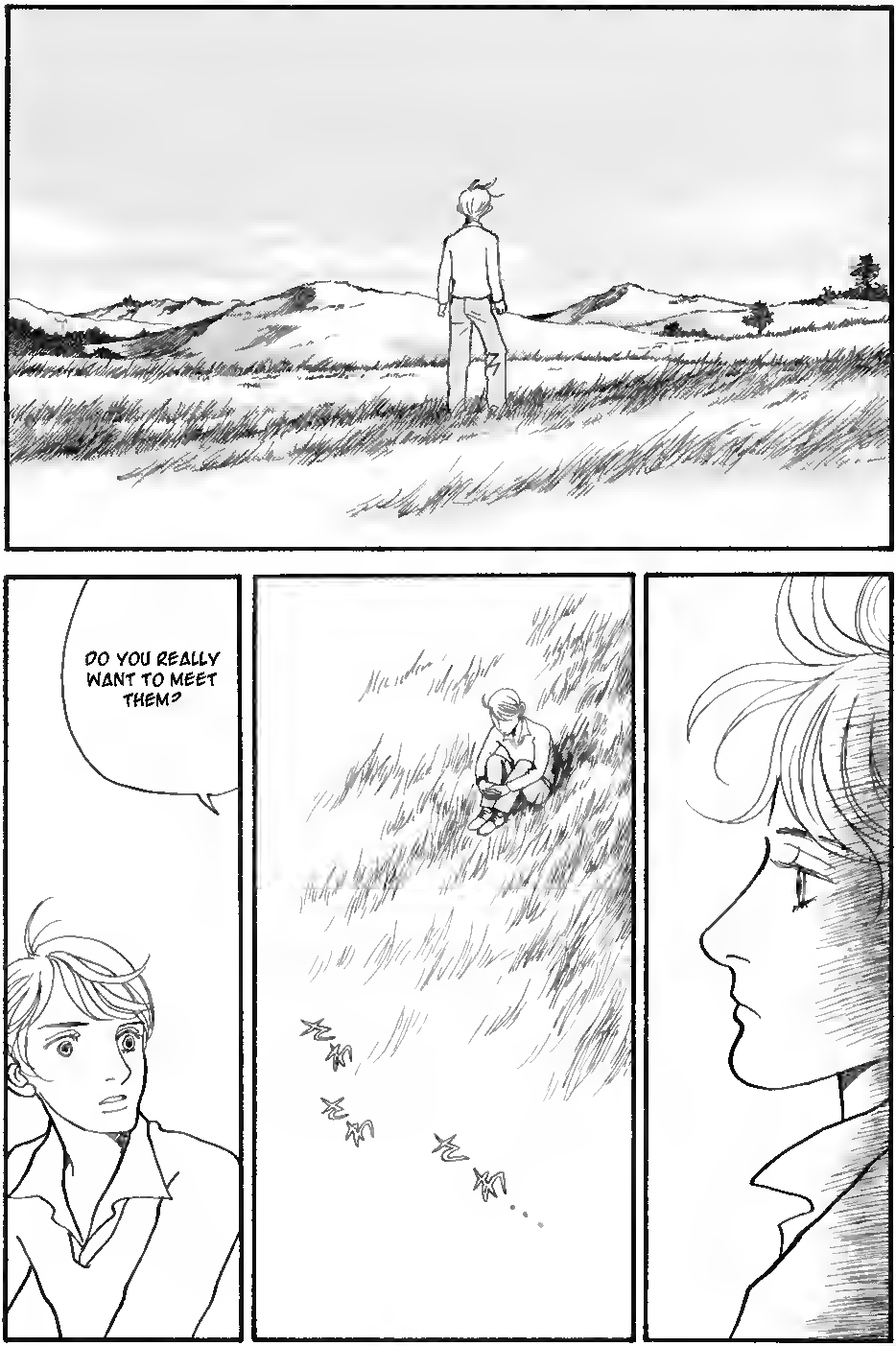
I WANT
TO MEET ALL OF YOU.
I DON'T WANT TO GO TO WAR.
I DON'T WANT TO KILL PEOPLE.





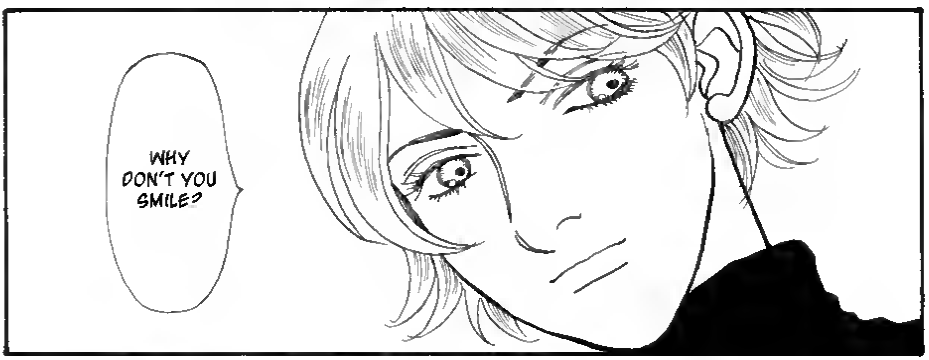
SFX: GASP

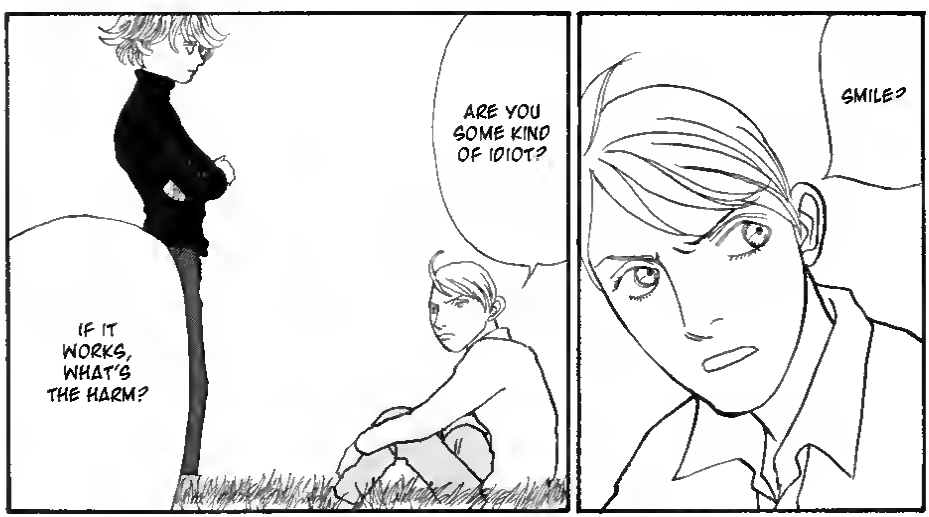
SFX: TWEE-TWEE-TWEET

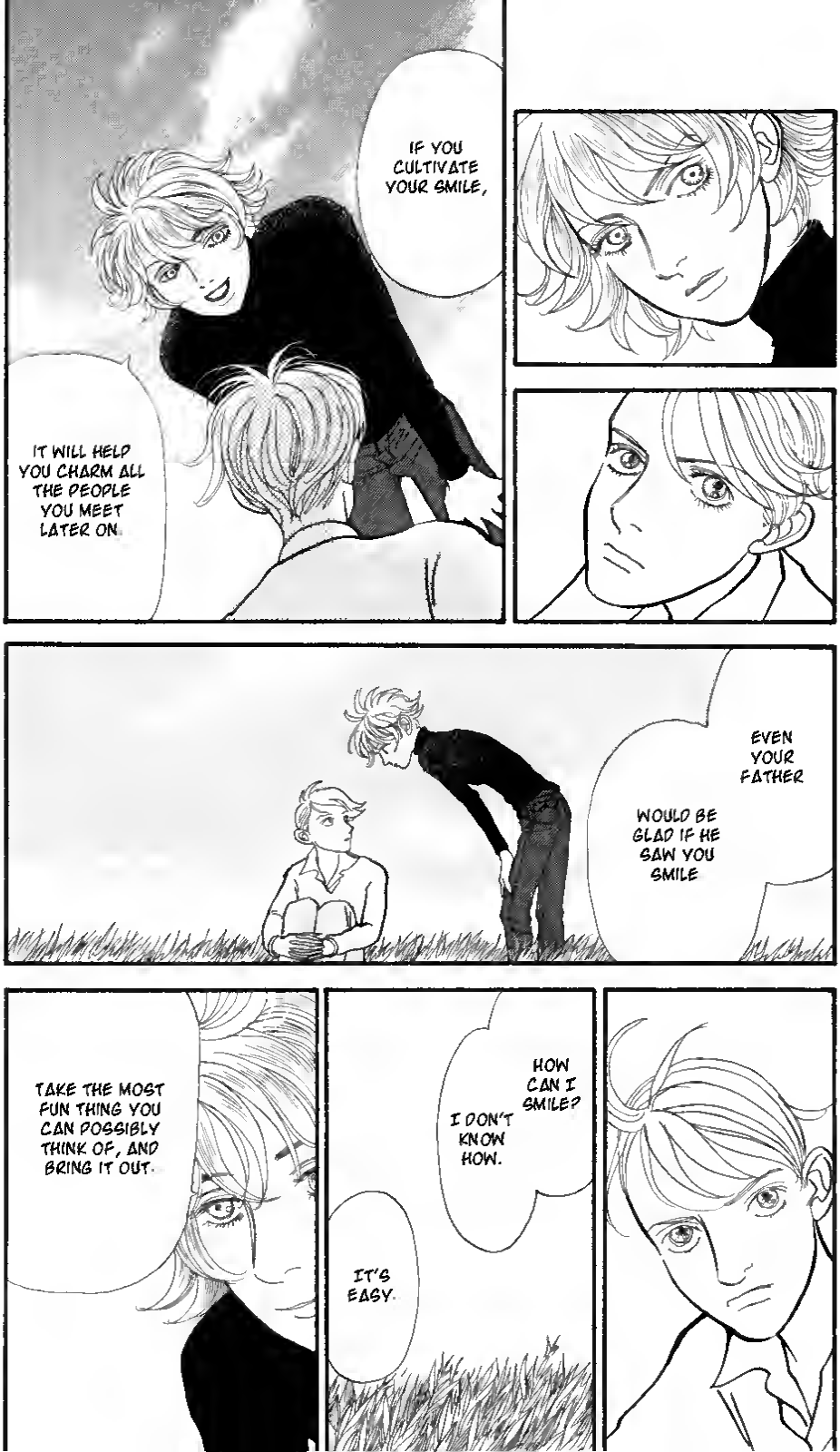

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO MEET THEM?
SFX: RUSTLE

ARE YOU..?
WHO..
IT'S NO USE.
WHY NOT?
JUST SAY YOU WON'T
I DO WANT TO MEET THEM..
BUT I CAN'T.
THAT'S TRUE.
THE WAY YOU ARE NOW, THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD OPPOSE YOUR FATHER.
I HAVE TO GO INTO THE ARMY I'VE NO CHOICE

YOUR MIND IS CHOCK FULL OF INTERESTING AND FUN THINGS, BUT YOU KEEP THEM SEALED UP IN THERE WITH THAT GLUM FACE.
WITH A FACE LIKE THAT, YOU'RE GOING TO END UP DOING EXACTLY WHAT YOUR FATHER WANTS.

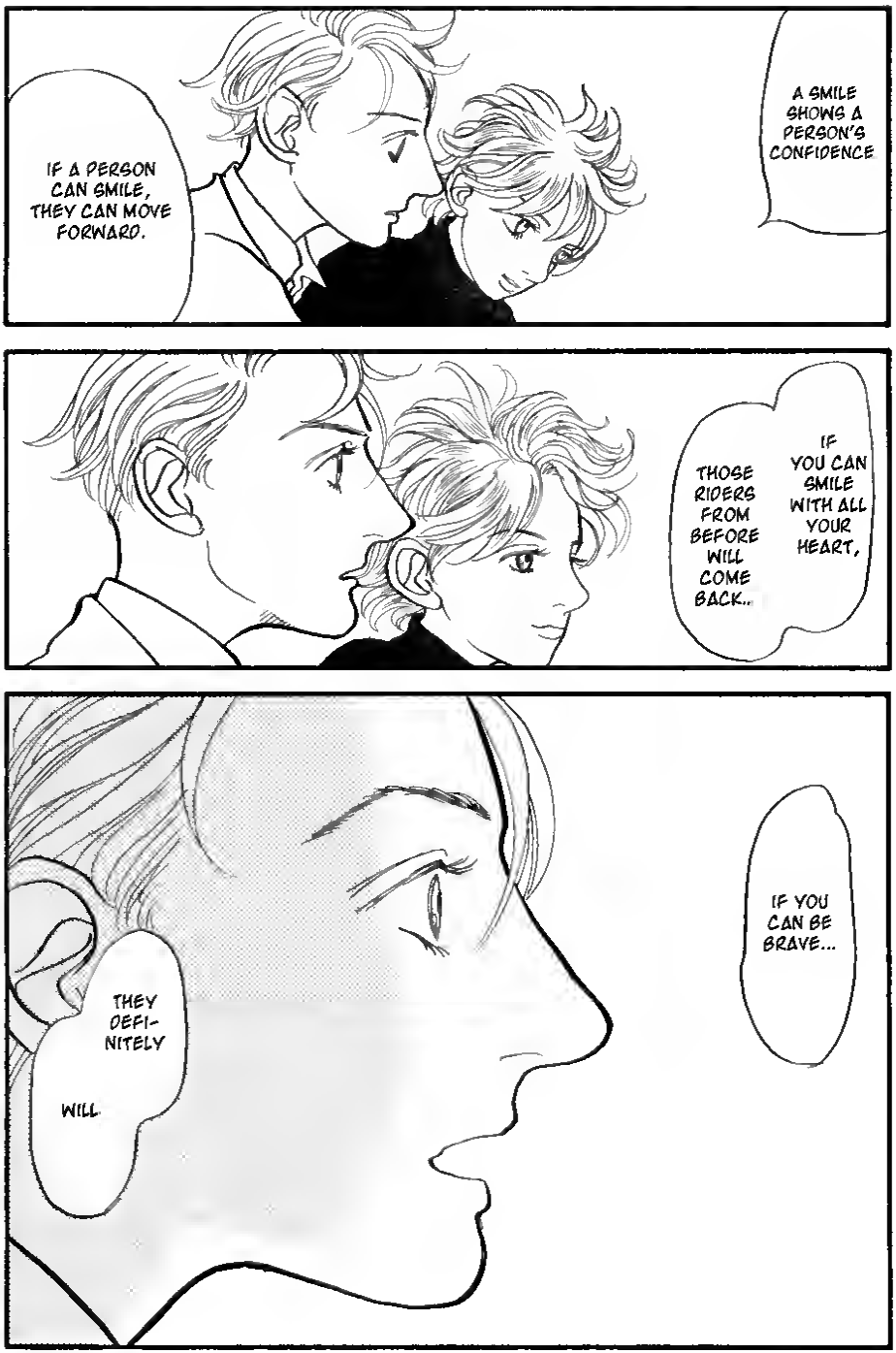

WHY DON'T YOU SMILE?


ARE YOU SOME KIND OF IDIOT?
IF IT WORKS, WHAT'S THE HARM?
SMILE?

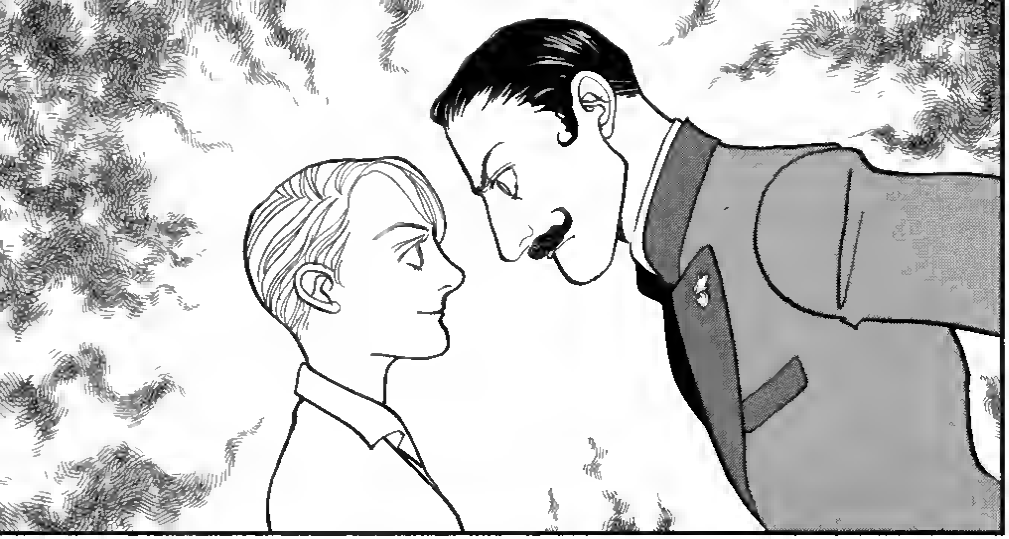

IF YOU CULTIVATE YOUR SMILE,
IT WILL HELP YOU CHARM ALL THE PEOPLE YOU MEET LATER ON.
EVEN YOUR FATHER
WOULD BE GLAD IF HE SAW YOU SMILE
TAKE THE MOST FUN THING YOU CAN POSSIBLY THINK OF, AND BRING IT OUT.
IT'S EASY.
I DON'T KNOW HOW.
HOW CAN I SMILE?

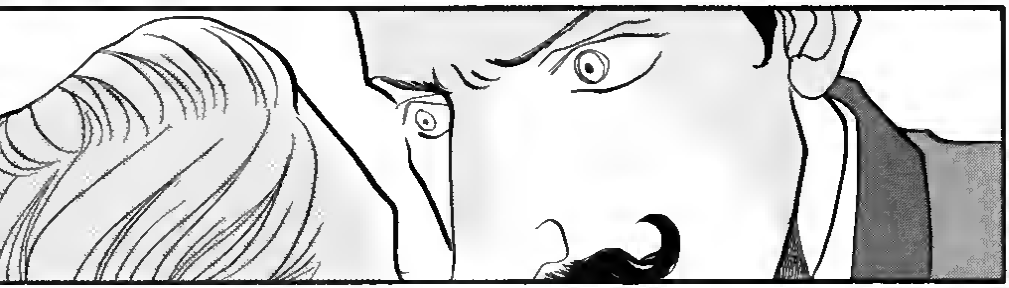
YOU DON'T KNOW MY FATHER! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW SCARY HE IS!
IF IT WAS THAT SIMPLE, MY LIFE WOULD BE EASY!
ゲシ ゲシ
WHO ARE YOU KID-DING?
SFX: RIP
I DON'T KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO BE YOU
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'M NOT YOU.

IN YOUR HEAD.
THE AMAZING THINGS
I JUST...
WANTED TO SEE...


A SMILE SHOWS A PERSON'S CONFIDENCE
IF A PERSON CAN SMILE, THEY CAN MOVE FORWARD.
IF YOU CAN SMILE WITH ALL YOUR HEART,
THOSE RIDERS FROM BEFORE WILL COME BACK..
IF YOU CAN BE BRAVE...
THEY DEFI-NITELY WILL

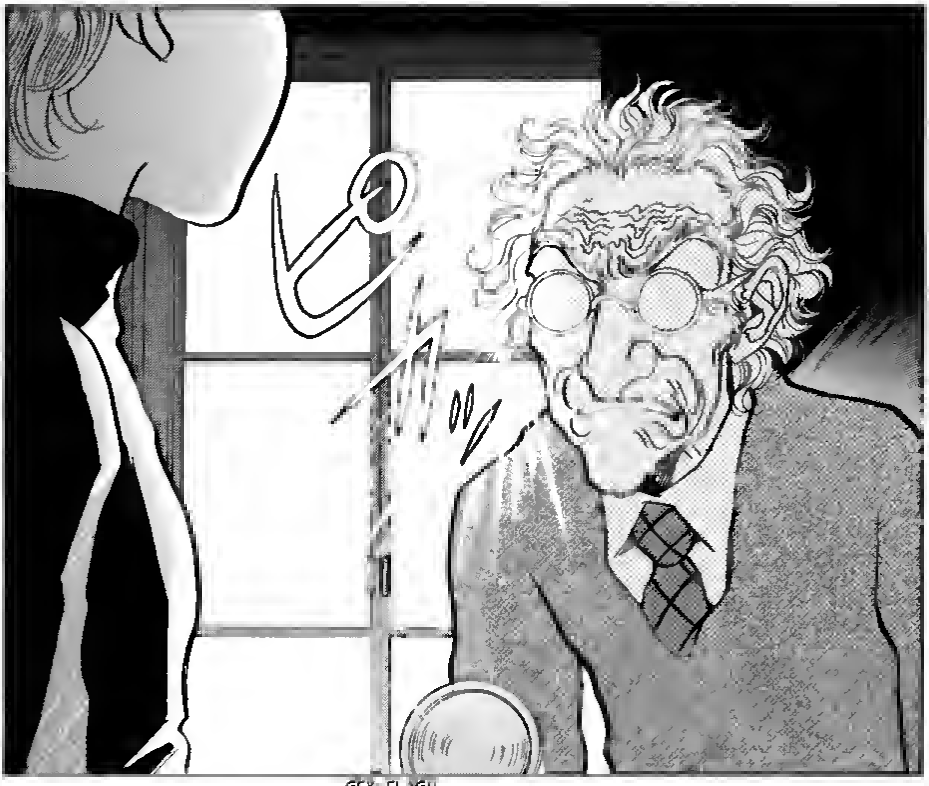
I WON'T JOIN THE ARMY, FATHER.
AND I...
I LOOKED HIM IN THE EYE...
REPEAT YOURSELF
I WANT TO BE AN ANTHRO-POLOGIST.
I HAVE MY OWN DREAM.



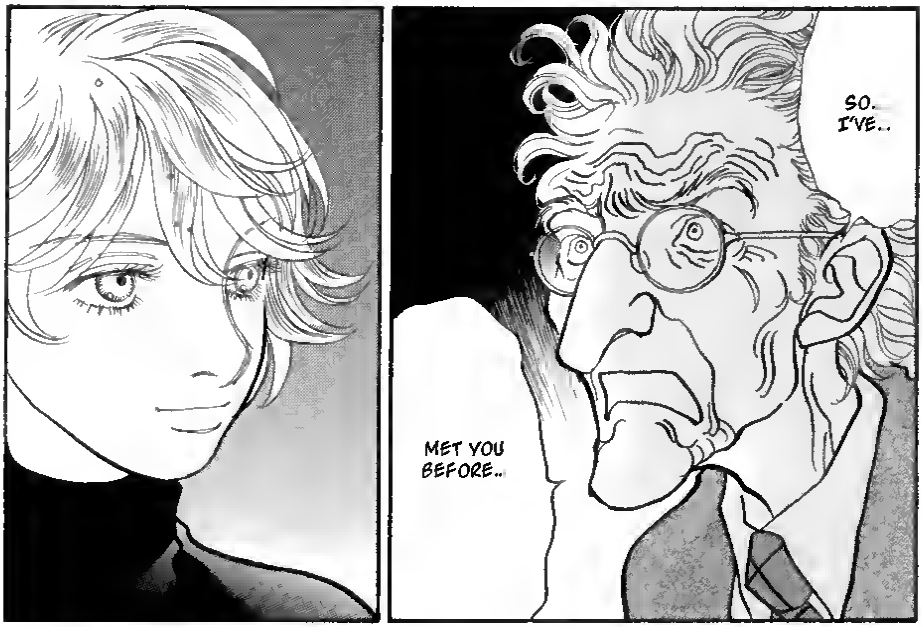


DO AS
YOU WISH

SFX: SIGH

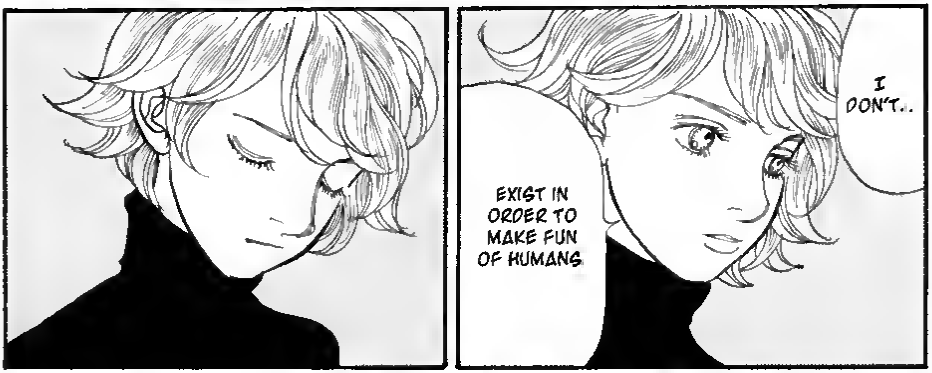


SFX FLASH


SO.. I'VE..
MET YOU BEFORE..

BECAUSE I MET YOU BACK THEN...
AND I'M WHO I AM NOW...

ARE YOU GOING TO ERASE MY MEMORY?
...
HEH... COMING BACK TO TAKE AWAY WHAT YOU GAVE ME IN THE FIRST PLACE...
THAT WOULD BE THE CRUELEST JOKE OF ALL.
THIS IS MY LIFE'S WORK, AND IT ONLY EXISTS BECAUSE OF THE COURAGE YOU GAVE ME.

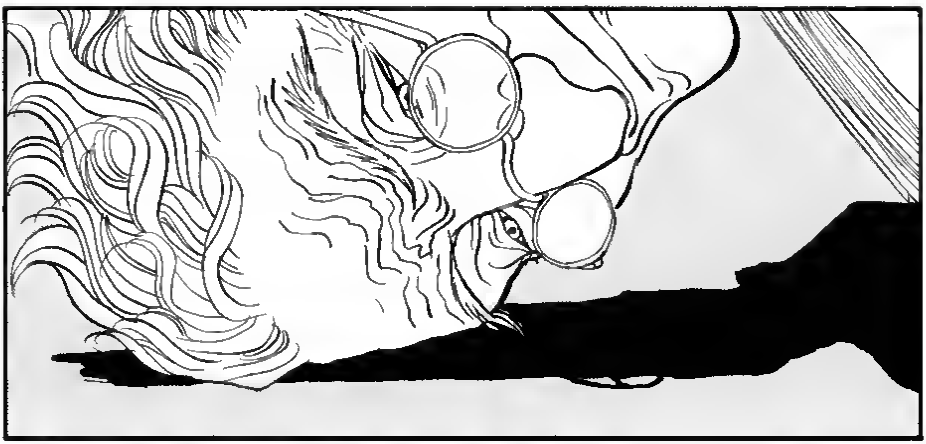

I DON'T..
EXIST IN ORDER TO MAKE FUN OF HUMANS

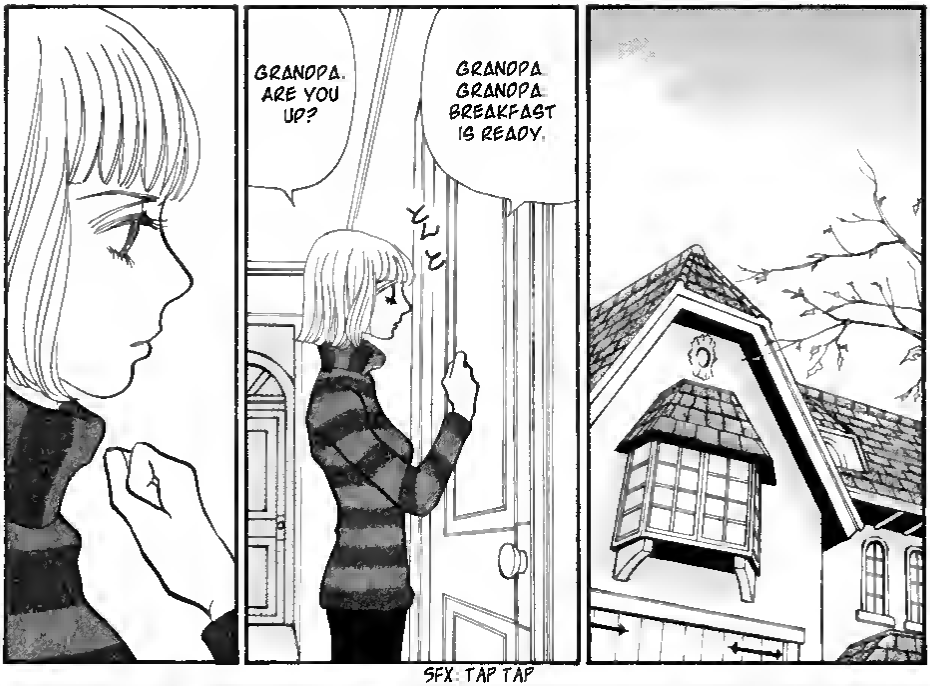
IN THAT CASE...
...I UNDER-STAND

I'LL LEAVE YOUR MEMORIES ALONE.

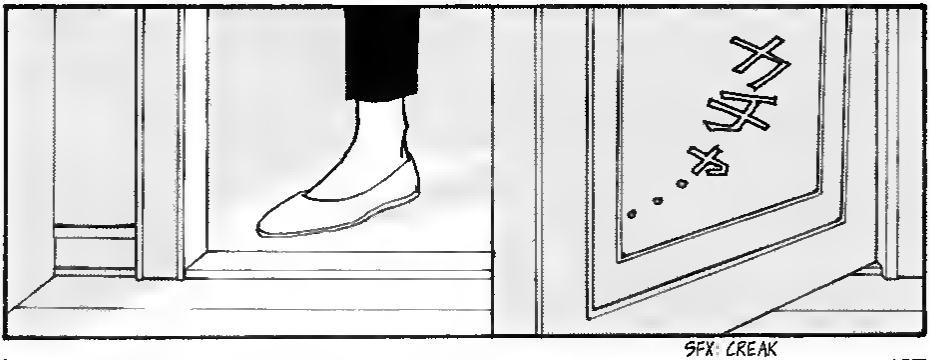
カ
SFX CRUMPLE
COULD IT BE...
THAT EVERY HUMAN...

ONCE IN THEIR LIFETIME?
FORGETS HAVING MET THE BOY

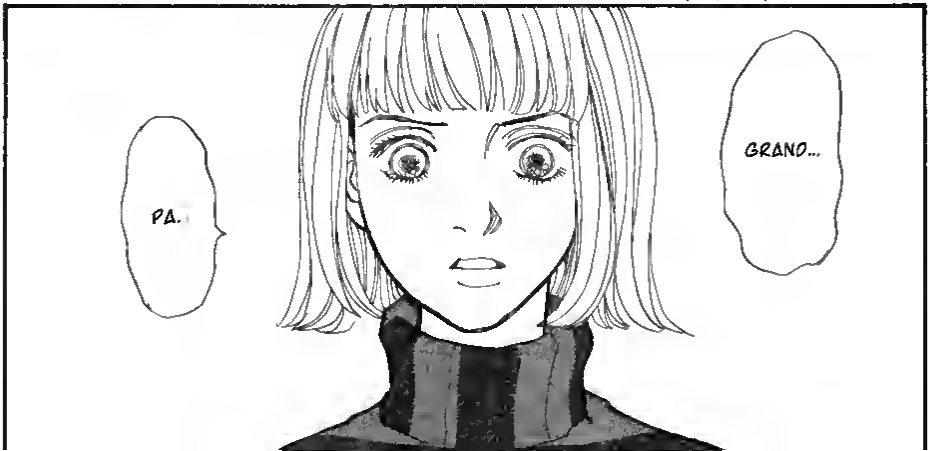




SFX: TAP TAP



SFX: CREAK



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This series needs a Translator!

Village Idiot Scanlations!

These series need Cleaners!

Please apply on our site or via email:
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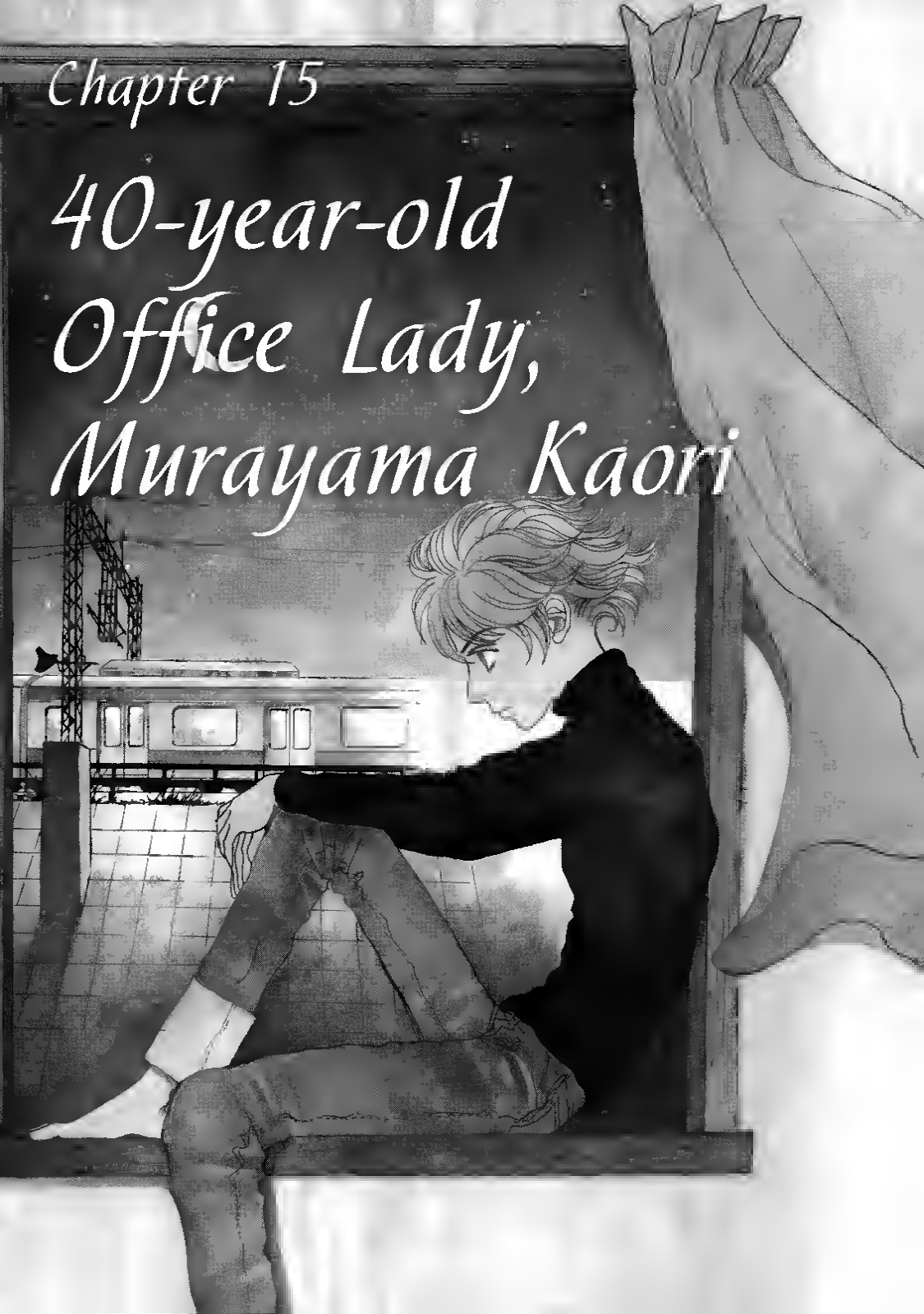
Chapter 15
40-year-old Office Lady, Murayama Kaori

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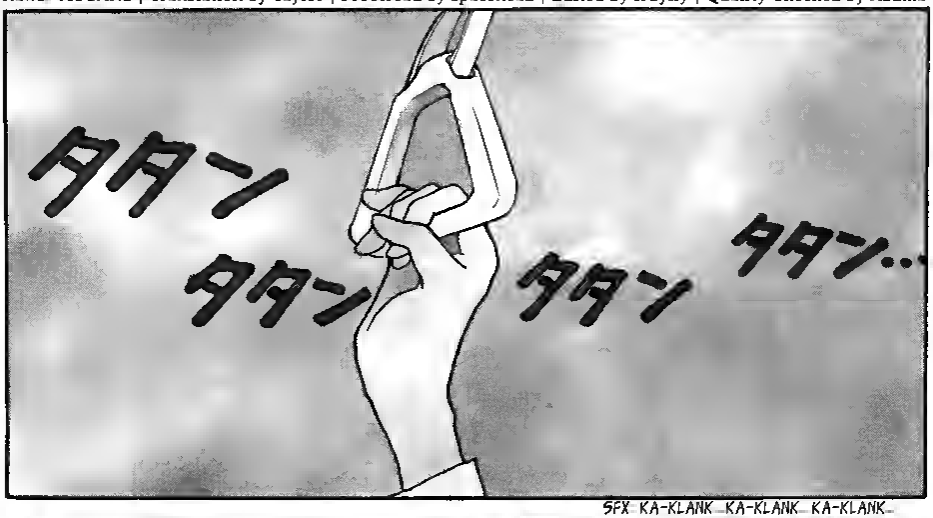


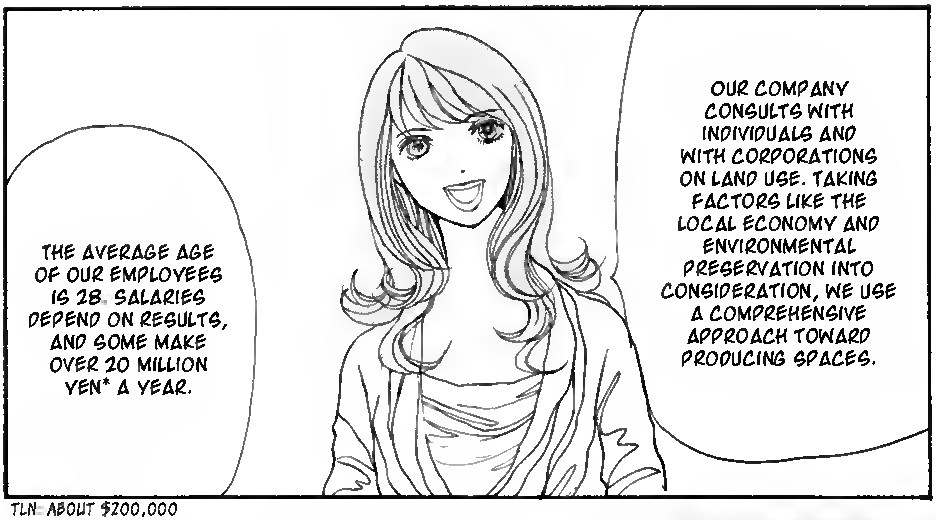
SFX: KA-KLANK... KA-KLANK... KA-KLANK...

SFX: KA-KLANK... KA-KLANK... KA-KLANK...

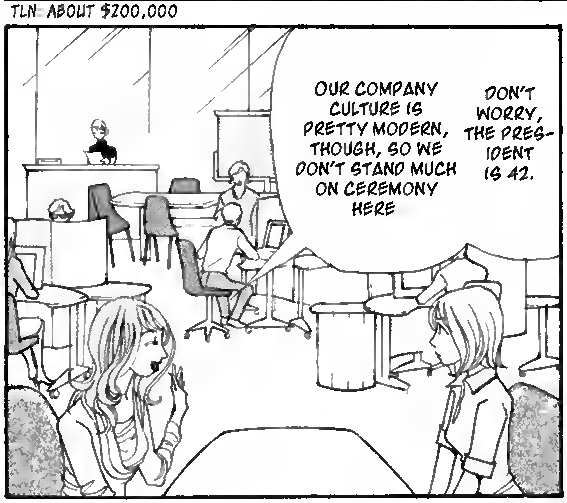
ME. I CLOSE MY CURTAINS AT NIGHT.
DON'T THESE PEOPLE... REALIZE THAT WE CAN SEE INTO THEIR ROOMS?
LOOK LIKE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING LIVES...
AND NONE OF THEM
ふぁあああ...
I SEE THEM EVERY DAY, SO I END UP REMEMBERING WHO LIVES IN WHICH WINDOW.
SFX: YAAAWN

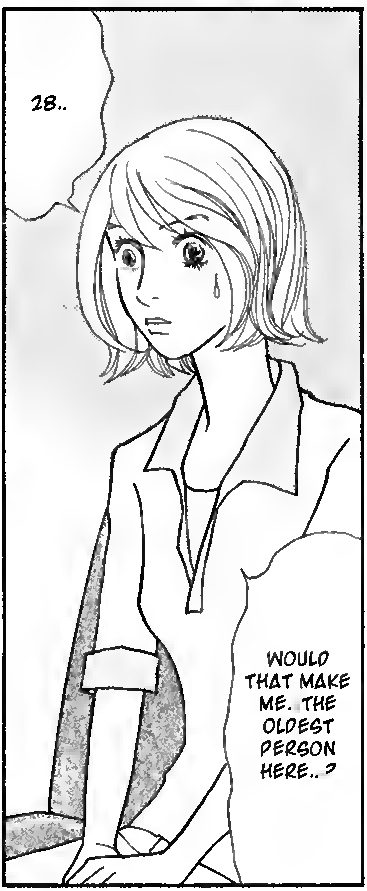
SFX: KA-KLANK, KA-KLANK

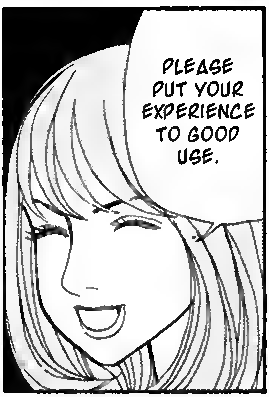
I MUST BE TIRED..
DID HE LOOK AT ME AND SMILE? IT WENT BY TOO QUICKLY, SO I COULDN'T TELL..
I'M MURAYAMA KAORI. PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
I'M 40 YEARS OLD, BUT I'M STARTING A NEW JOB, AND I'M STARTING FROM THE BOTTOM.


THE AVERAGE AGE OF OUR EMPLOYEES IS 28. SALARIES DEPEND ON RESULTS, AND SOME MAKE OVER 20 MILLION YEN* A YEAR.
OUR COMPANY CONSULTS WITH INDIVIDUALS AND WITH CORPORATIONS ON LAND USE. TAKING FACTORS LIKE THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION INTO CONSIDERATION, WE USE A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TOWARD PRODUCING SPACES.

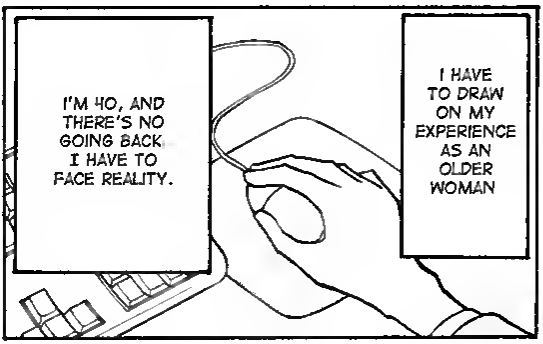
TLN: ABOUT $200,000



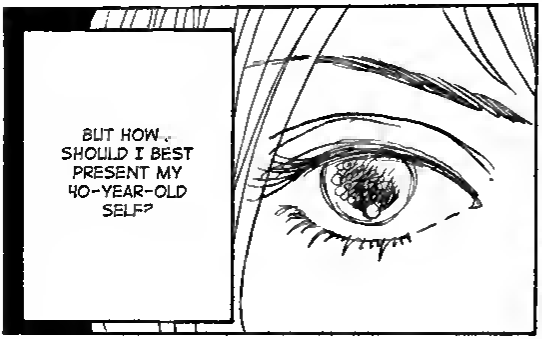


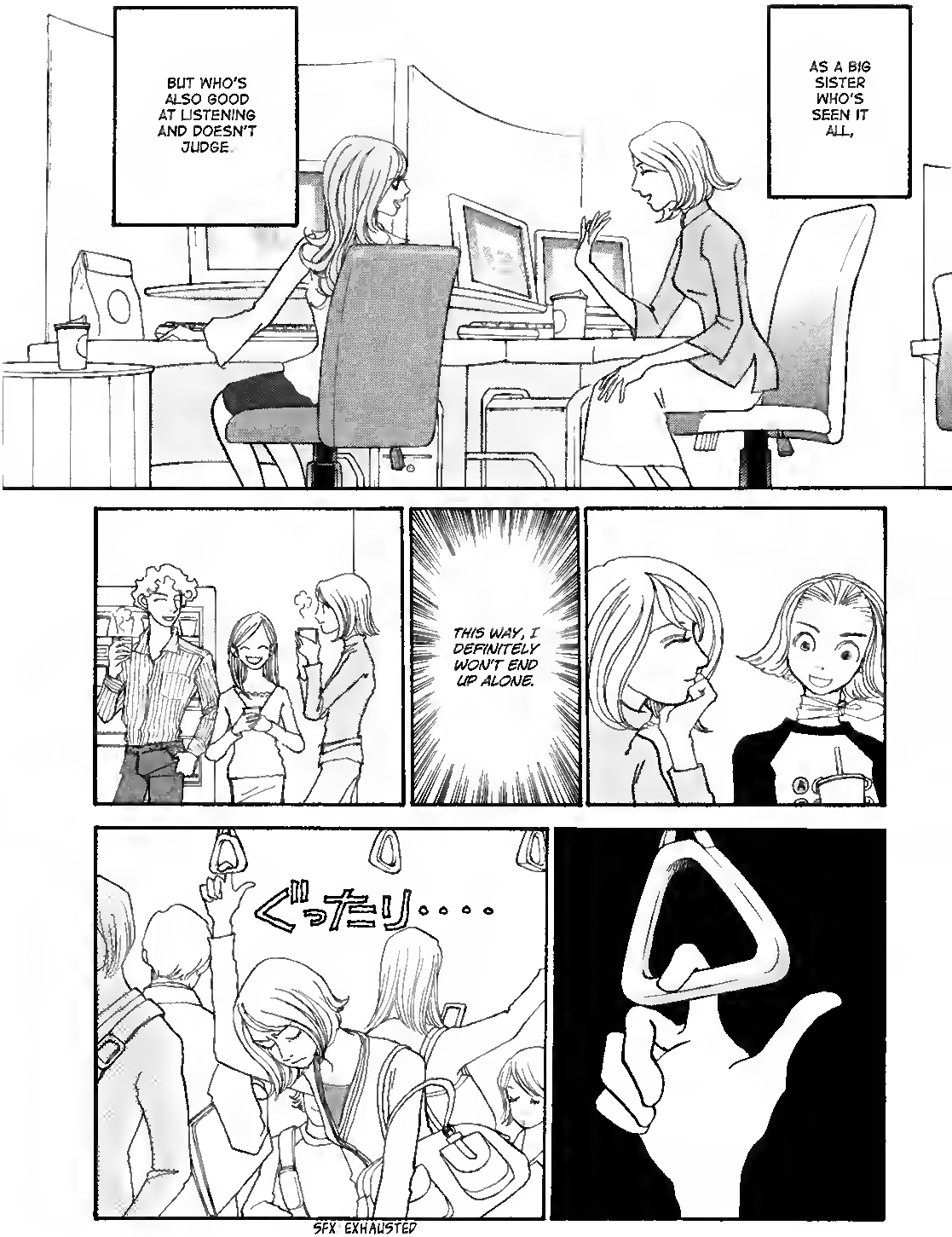


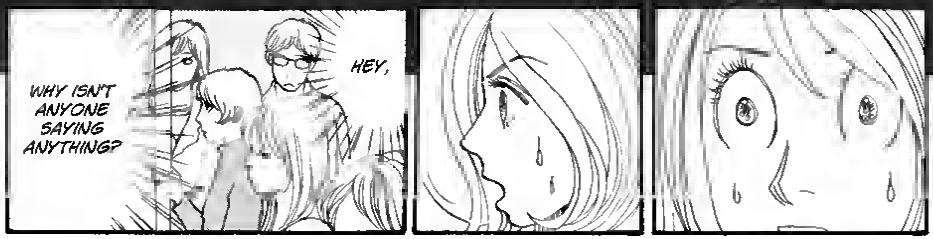
EVERYONE IS SO *YOUNG*...

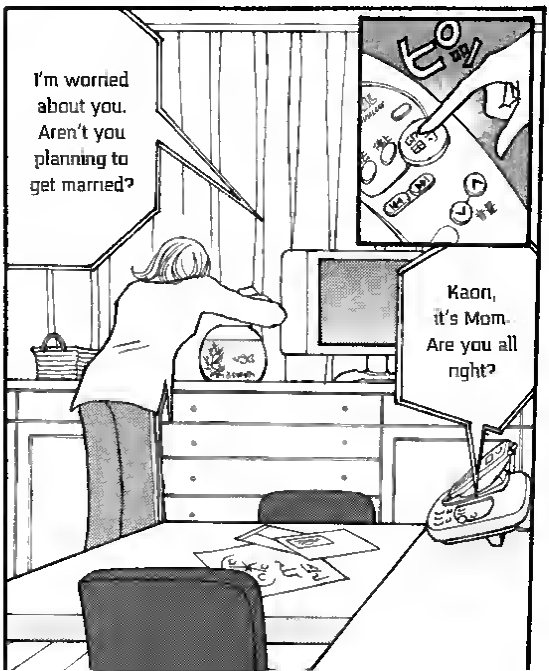

I'M 40, AND THERE'S NO GOING BACK. I HAVE TO FACE REALITY.
I HAVE TO DRAW ON MY EXPERIENCE AS AN OLDER WOMAN

BUT I HAVE TO DO MY BEST.

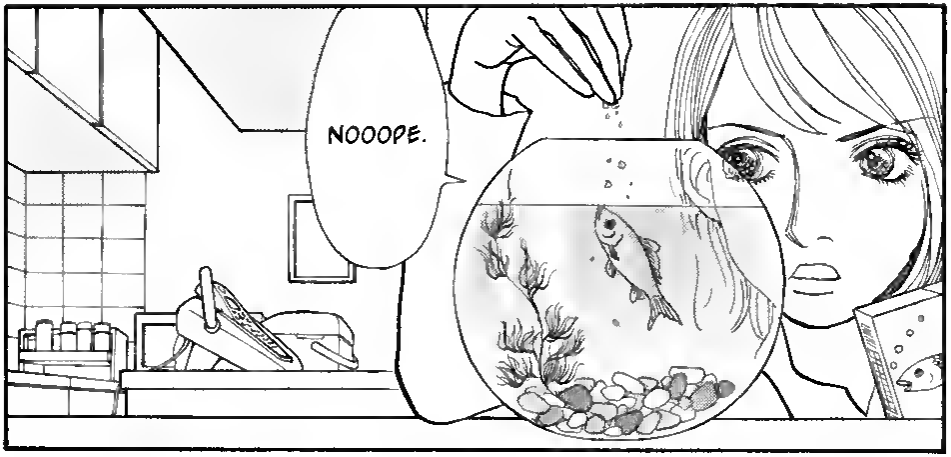

BUT HOW... SHOULD I BEST PRESENT MY 40-YEAR-OLD SELF?


BUT WHO'S ALSO GOOD AT LISTENING AND DOESN'T JUDGE.
AS A BIG SISTER WHO'S SEEN IT ALL,
THIS WAY, I DEFINITELY WON'T END UP ALONE.
ぐったり....
SFX EXHAUSTED

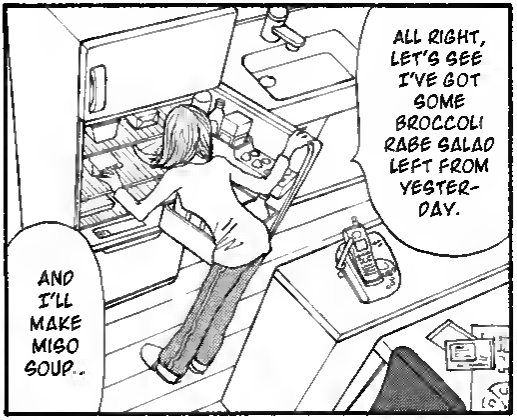

WHY ISN'T ANYONE SAYING ANYTHING?
HEY,

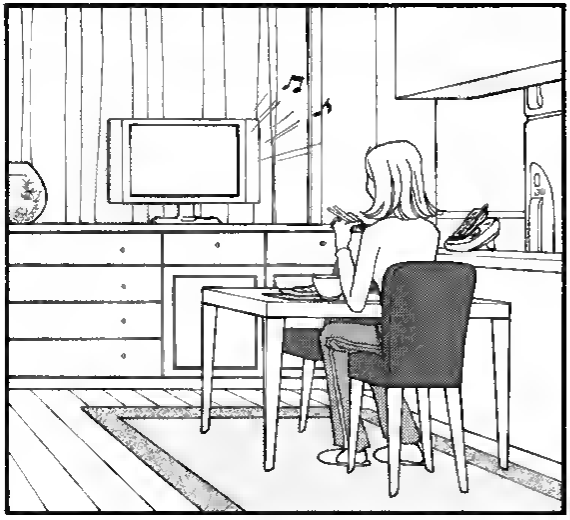

I'm worried about you. Aren't you planning to get married?
SFX BEEP
Kaori, it's Mom. Are you all right?

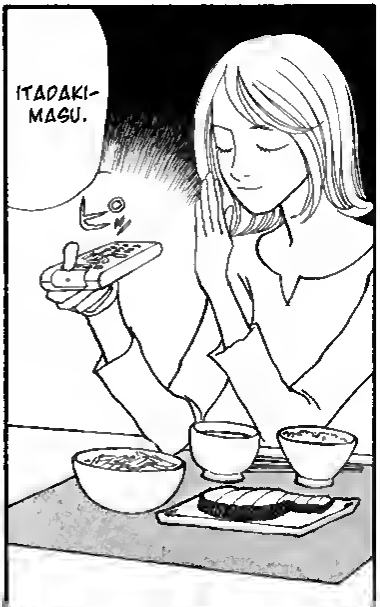
IF I SEE HIM TOMORROW, MAYBE I'LL GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
IS IT REALLY JUST ME BEING WEIRD?


NOOOPE.

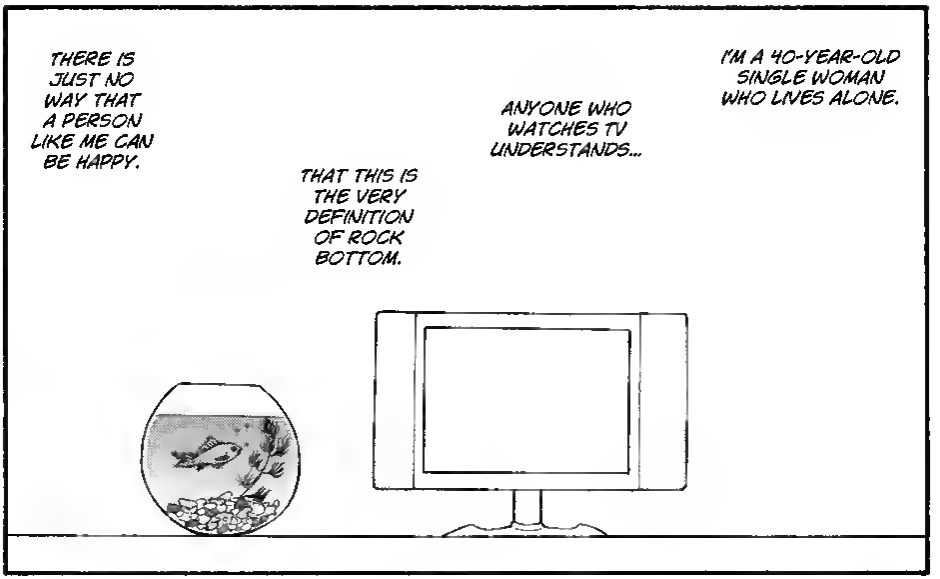
I CAN THROW THAT IN, WITH SOME SEAWEED AND LEEK
OH, THERE'S SOME FRIED TOFU.


ALL RIGHT, LET'S SEE I'VE GOT SOME BROCCOLI RABE SALAD LEFT FROM YESTER-DAY.
AND I'LL MAKE MISO SOUP.

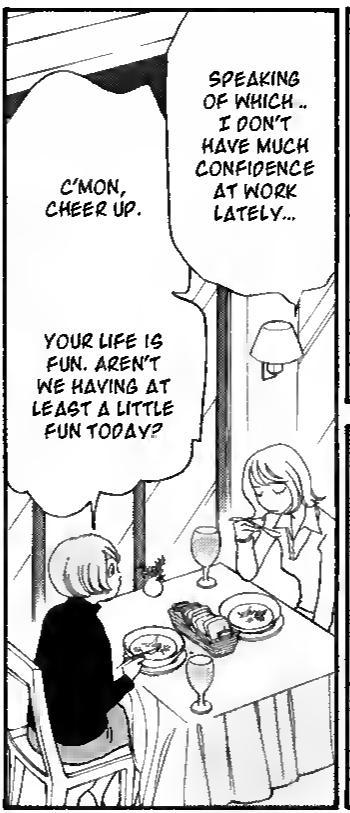



ITADAKI-MASU.
SFX: BEEP

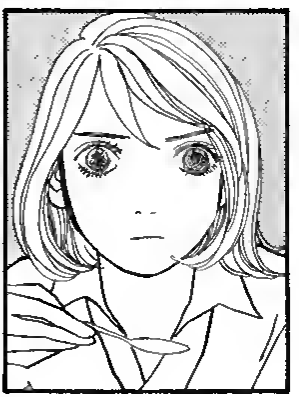
Heals the wounds in my heart
You being by my side
And I'm not lonely
You're not alone
THERE ARE WAY TOO MANY SONGS WITH THESE KINDS OF LYRICS THESE DAYS.
MAYBE THE POP HITS ARE ACTUALLY GHOSTWRITTEN BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FOR FAMILY PLANNING PURPOSES.
For the good of Japan
Hurry and find a boyfriend, get married, and have some kids
I CAN'T HELP HEARING IT LIKE THIS.
ACCORDING TO THE TV'S RULES FOR HAPPINESS, I MUST BE QUITE MISERABLE.
LET'S TRY THE KIDS' SHOWS.
DRAMAS AND VARIETY SHOWS ARE ALL LIKE THIS TOO.
I want to be happy!
I don't want to miss my chance to get married, and end up alone!
I don't want to be a loser!
SFX CLICK


I'M A 40-YEAR-OLD SINGLE WOMAN WHO LIVES ALONE.
ANYONE WHO WATCHES TV UNDERSTANDS...
THAT THIS IS THE VERY DEFINITION OF ROCK BOTTOM.
THERE IS JUST NO WAY THAT A PERSON LIKE ME CAN BE HAPPY.

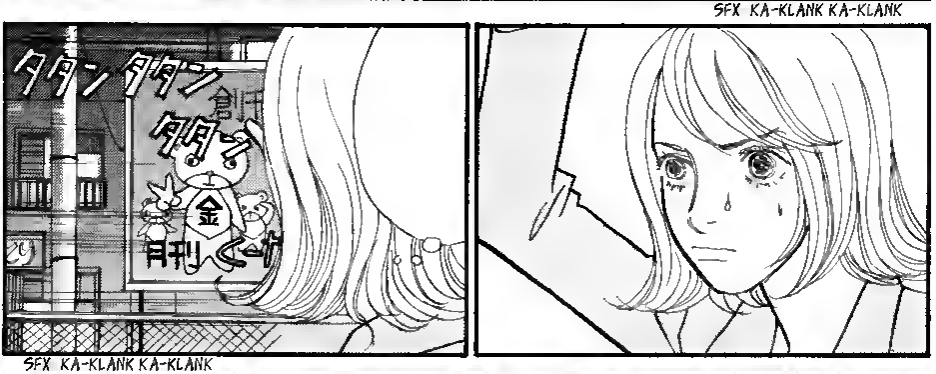
I'VE BEEN THINKING, MY HUSBAND WILL PROBABLY DIE BEFORE ME, SO WHY DON'T WE FIND A NICE OLD FOLKS' HOME TOGETHER?
I don't wanna go by myself.
URGH.. SO PRACTICAL..
I'D BETTER BE A LITTLE MORE REALISTIC, MYSELF.


C'MON, CHEER UP.
SPEAKING OF WHICH.. I DON'T HAVE MUCH CONFIDENCE AT WORK LATELY...
YOUR LIFE IS FUN. AREN'T WE HAVING AT LEAST A LITTLE FUN TODAY?

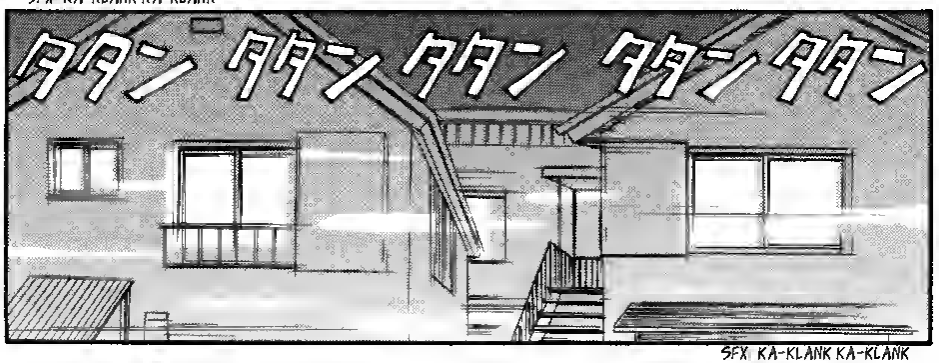
YOU ALWAYS PUT WORK FIRST, KAORI.
WELL, WHAT CAN YOU DO?



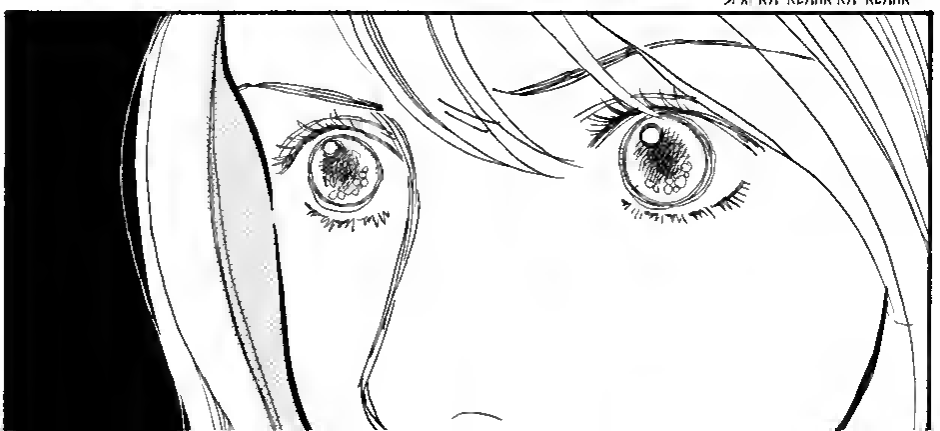
SFX KA-KLANK KA-KLANK

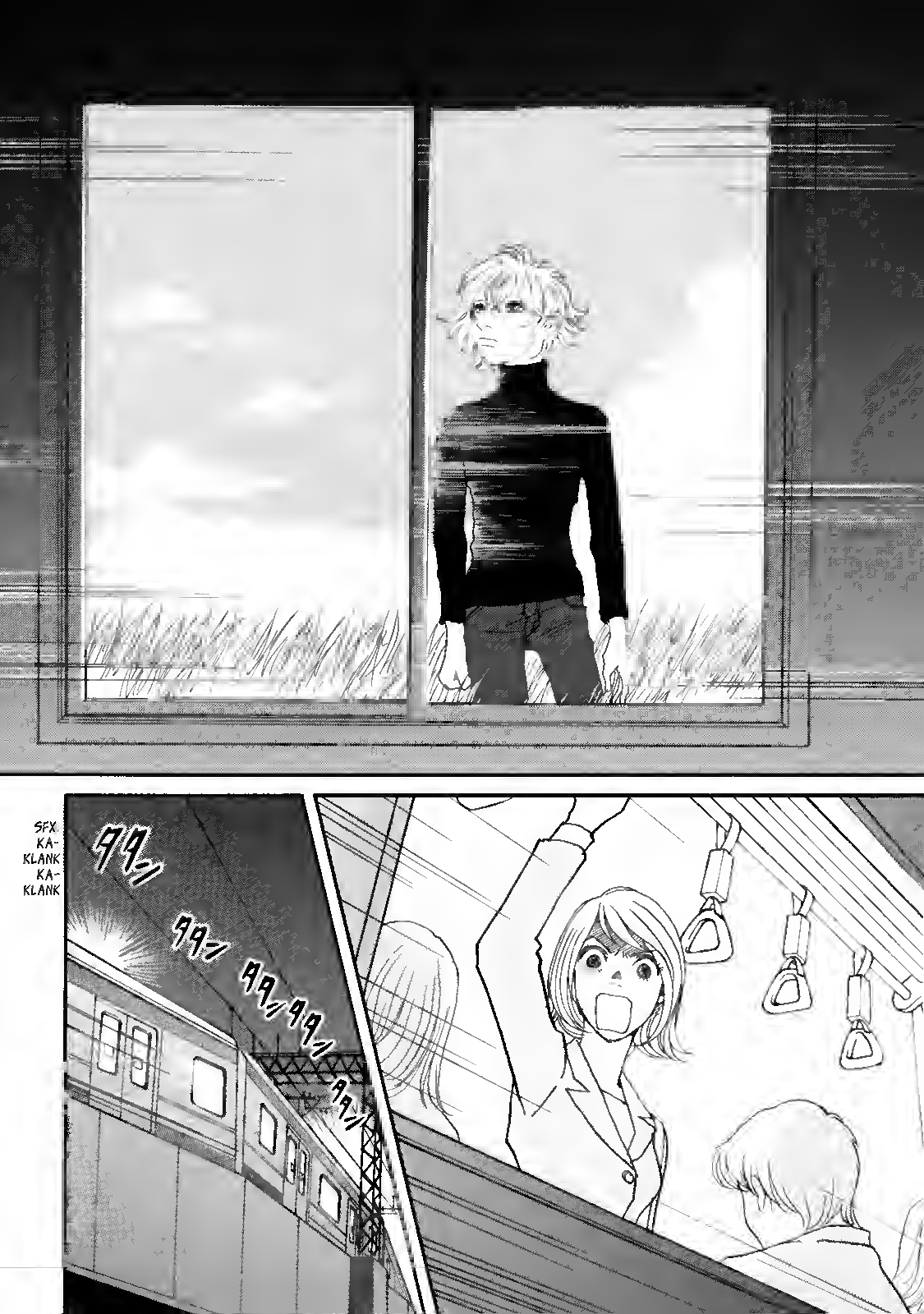


SFX KA-KLANK KA-KLANK



SFX KA-KLANK KA-KLANK




SFX
KA-
KLANK
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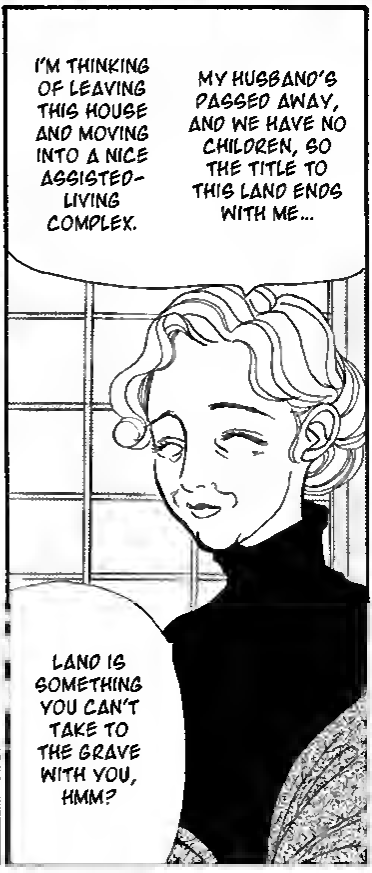
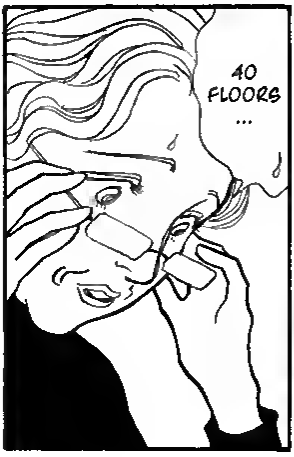
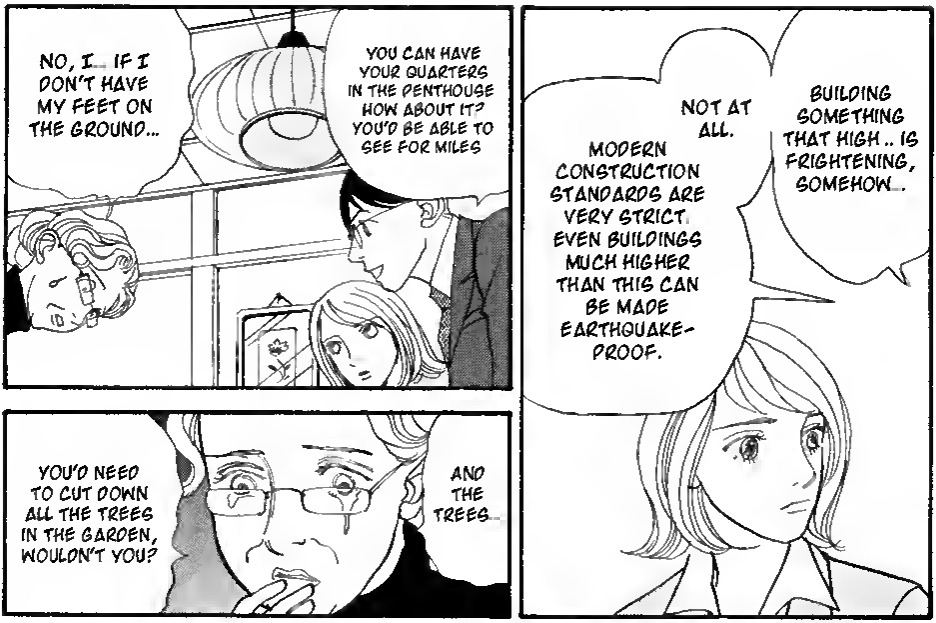
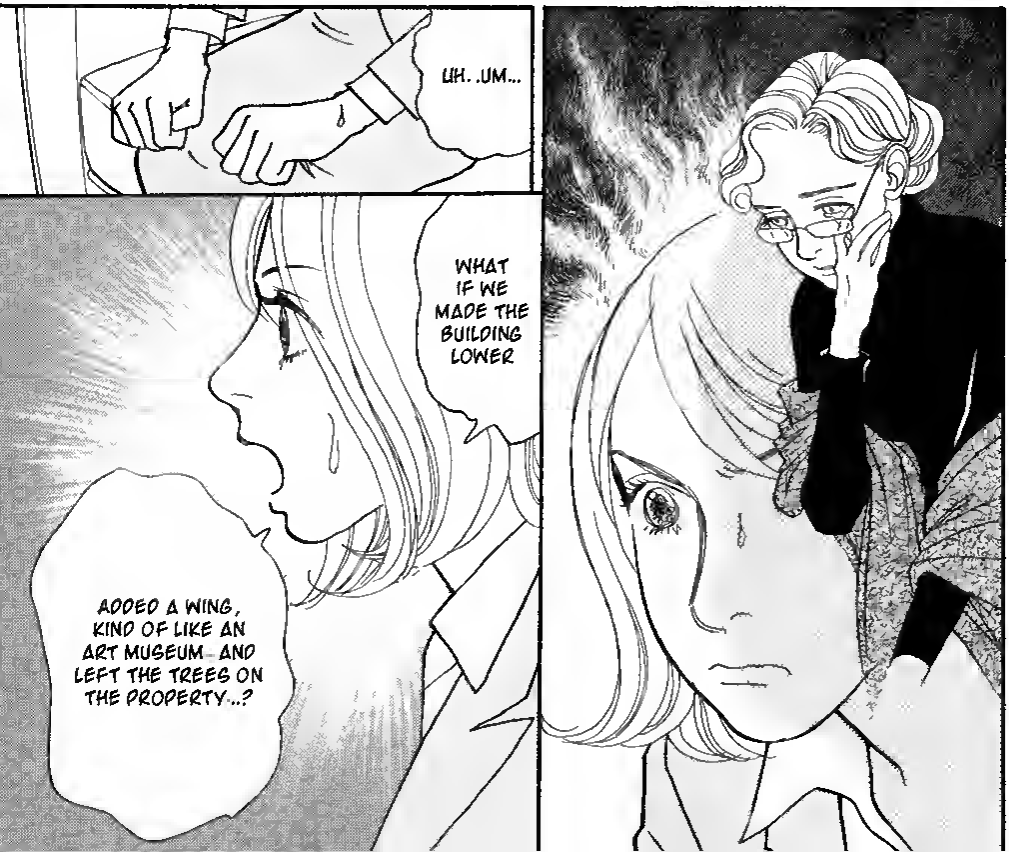
IT'S NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO BUY A PLOT OF LAND THIS BIG DOWNTOWN THESE DAYS.
WE'VE COME UP WITH SOME PLANS, SO PLEASE TAKE A LOOK.


I'M THINKING OF LEAVING THIS HOUSE AND MOVING INTO A NICE ASSISTED-LIVING COMPLEX.
MY HUSBAND'S PASSED AWAY, AND WE HAVE NO CHILDREN, SO THE TITLE TO THIS LAND ENDS WITH ME...
LAND IS SOMETHING YOU CAN'T TAKE TO THE GRAVE WITH YOU, HMM?


40 FLOORS ...

WE CAN PUT UP A 40-FLOOR TOWER HERE.


NO, I... IF I DON'T HAVE MY FEET ON THE GROUND...
YOU CAN HAVE YOUR QUARTERS IN THE PENTHOUSE HOW ABOUT IT? YOU'D BE ABLE TO SEE FOR MILES
BUILDING SOMETHING THAT HIGH.. IS FRIGHTENING, SOMEHOW...
NOT AT ALL.
MODERN CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS ARE VERY STRICT. EVEN BUILDINGS MUCH HIGHER THAN THIS CAN BE MADE EARTHQUAKE-PROOF.
YOU'D NEED TO CUT DOWN ALL THE TREES IN THE GARDEN, WOULDN'T YOU?
AND THE TREES...


UH..UM...
WHAT IF WE MADE THE BUILDING LOWER
ADDED A WING, KIND OF LIKE AN ART MUSEUM... AND LEFT THE TREES ON THE PROPERTY...?

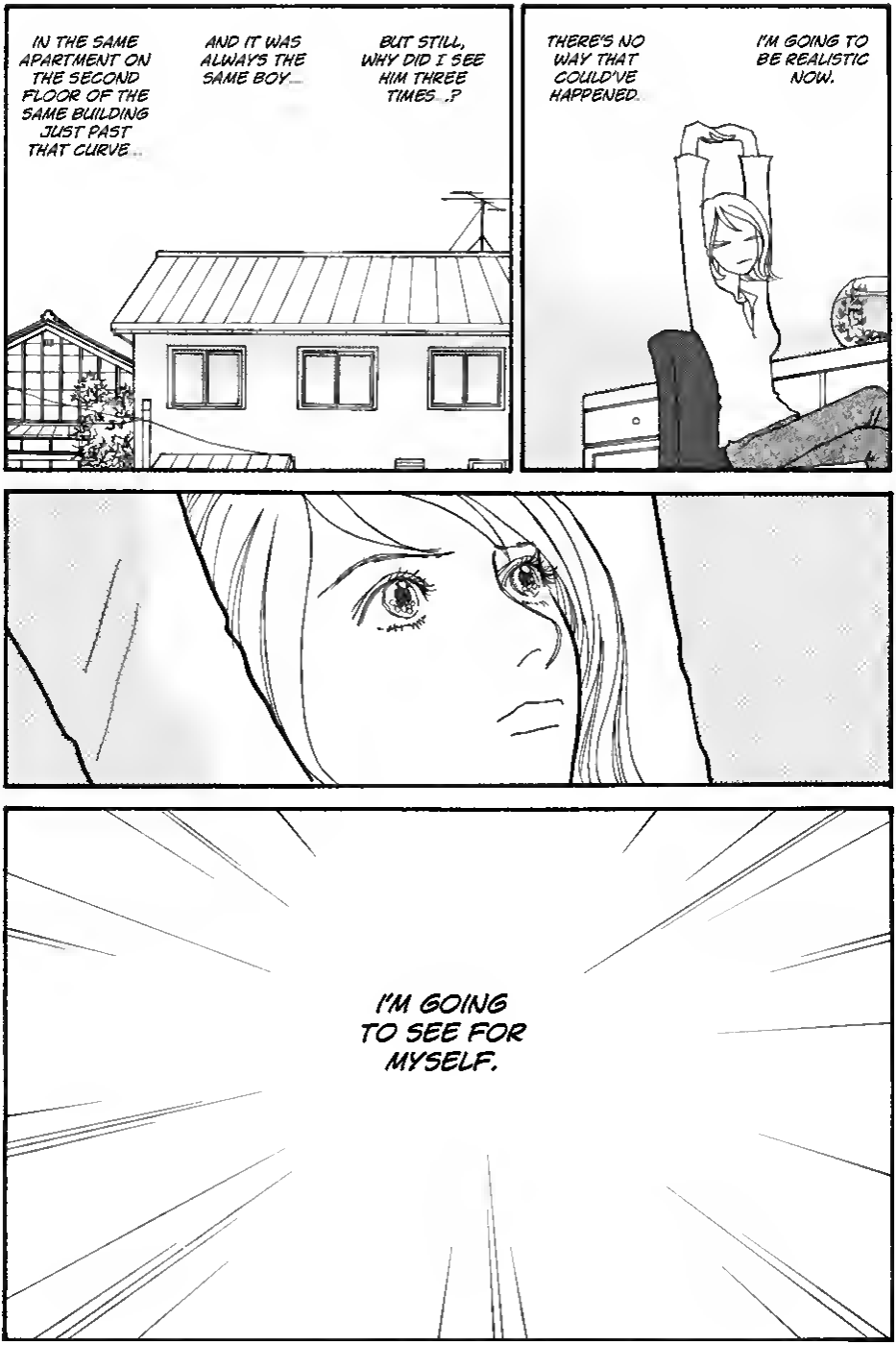
WONDER-
FUL!

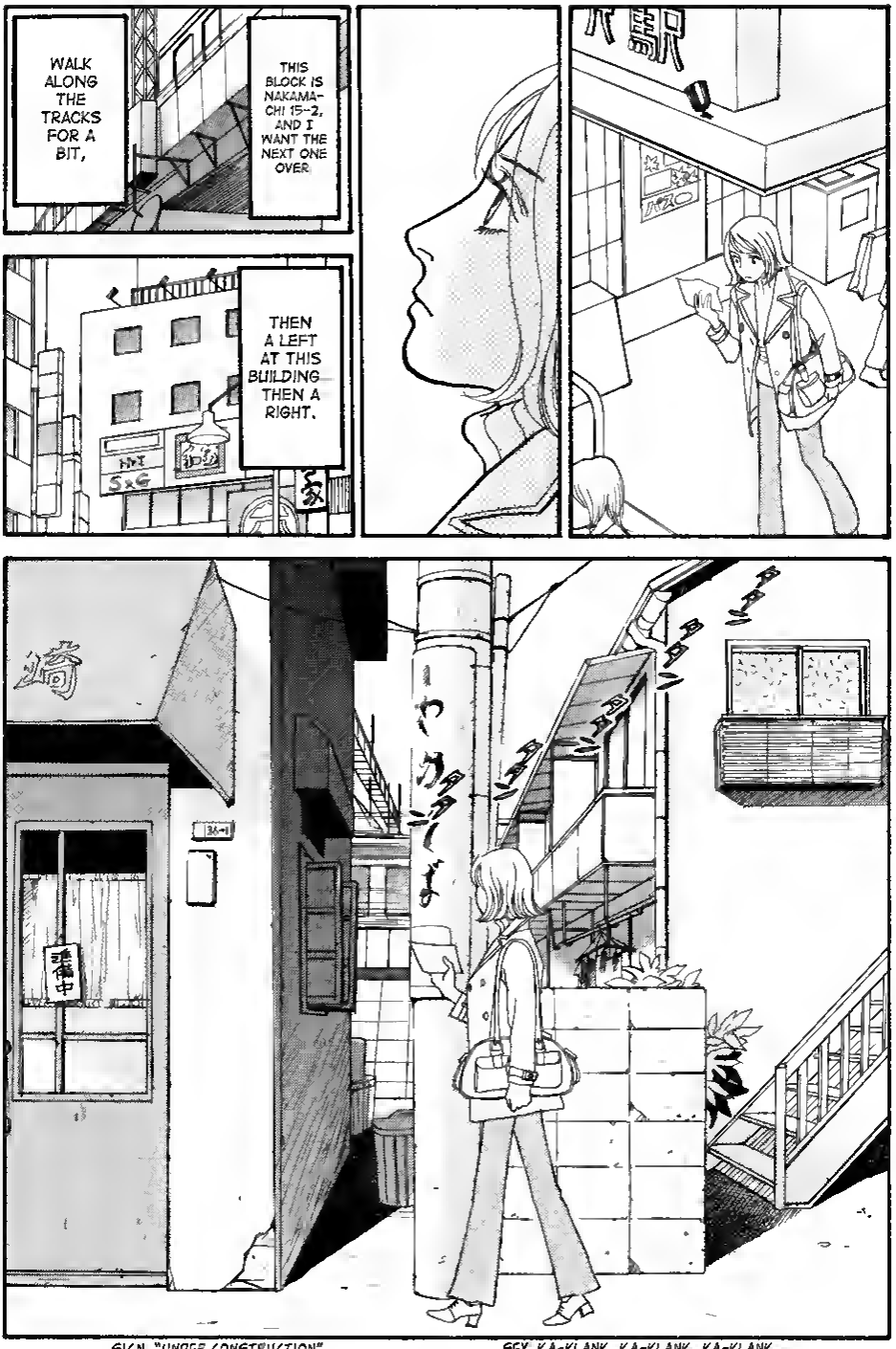
I GOT A STERN TALKING-TO FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR THROWING A MAJOR WRENCH IN OUR BIG PLAN.

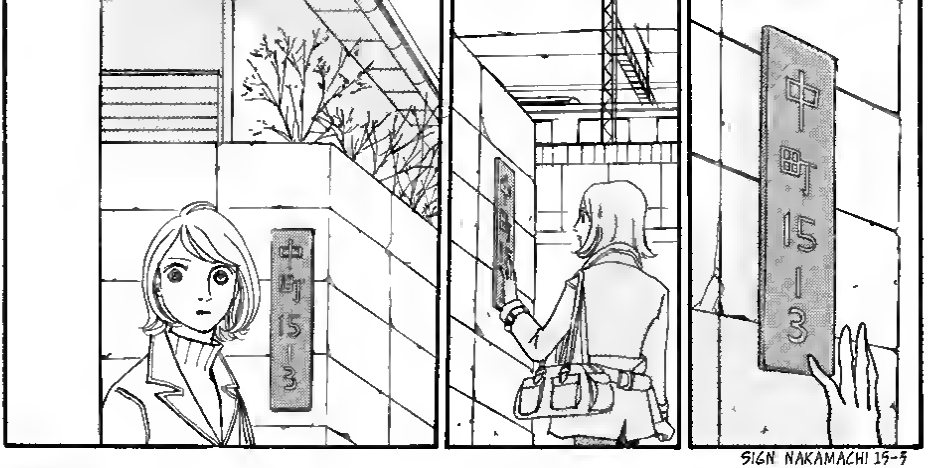
BUT WAS WHAT I SAID SO UN-REALISTIC...?

YOU'RE ALREADY 40 SO YOU SHOULD BE MORE REALISTIC, SHE SAID.

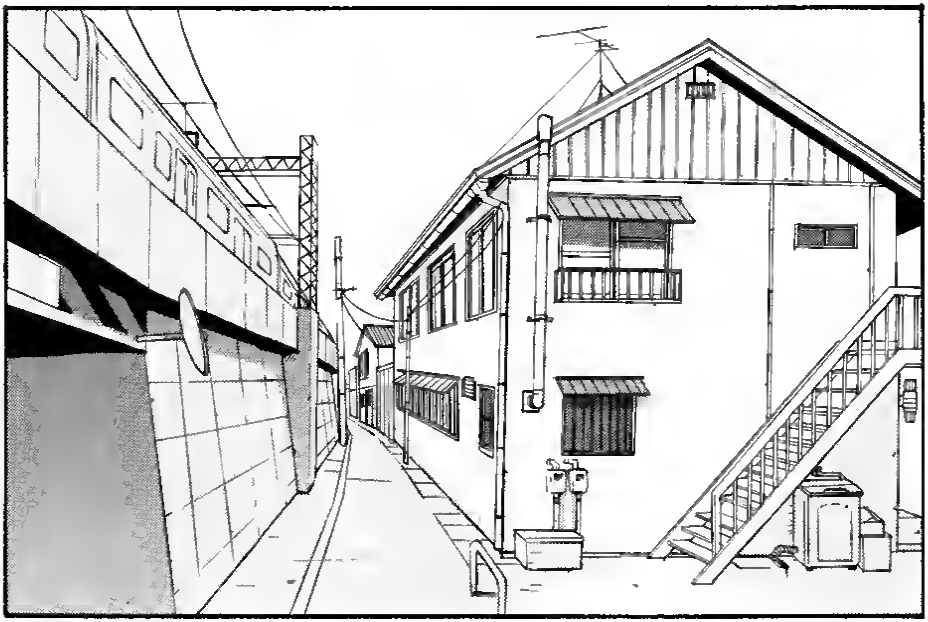
IN THE END, "REALITY" IS SOMETHING PEOPLE DEFINE ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN BELIEFS AND FOR THEIR OWN CONVENIENCE
THE WORLD WOULD STILL KEEP ON TURNING WITHOUT IT.
WHAT'S SO REALISTIC ABOUT PUTTING UP THAT BUILDING?
YOUR "REALITY" IS THE INSIDE OF THIS FISHBOWL.
GOTTEN INTO MY HEAD AND MADE ME SAY SOMETHING STUPID?
COULD THAT ILLUSION HAVE...
WHY'D I HAVE TO GO AND SAY THAT?
BUT, STILL
BECAUSE OF WHAT I SAW?
COULD IT BE


IN THE SAME APARTMENT ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE SAME BUILDING JUST PAST THAT CURVE...
AND IT WAS ALWAYS THE SAME BOY—
BUT STILL, WHY DID I SEE HIM THREE TIMES ..?
THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULD'VE HAPPENED.
I'M GOING TO BE REALISTIC NOW.
I'M GOING TO SEE FOR MYSELF.

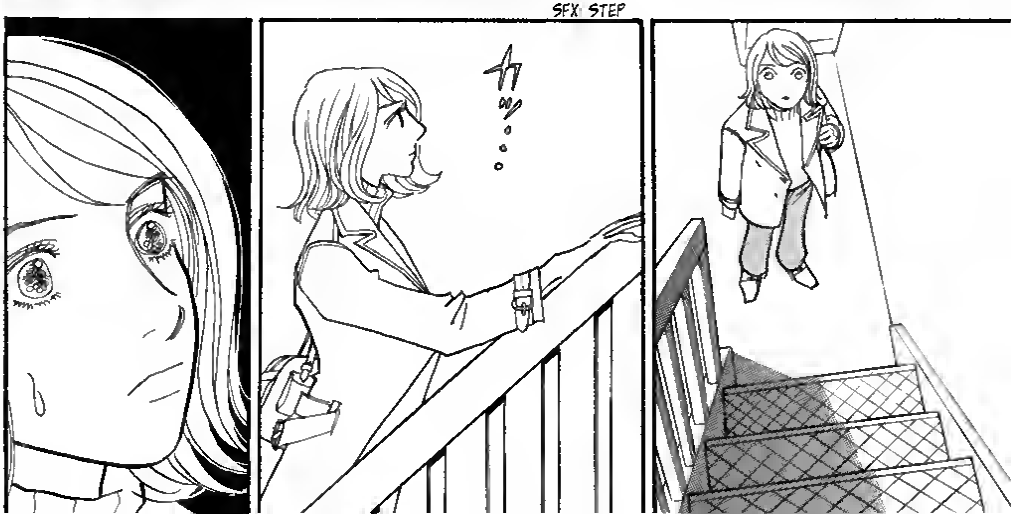

WALK ALONG THE TRACKS FOR A BIT,
THIS BLOCK IS NAKAMA-CHI 15-2, AND I WANT THE NEXT ONE OVER.
THEN A LEFT AT THIS BUILDING— THEN A RIGHT.
準備中
SIGN "UNDER CONSTRUCTION"
SFX KA-KLANK—KA-KLANK—KA-KLANK—

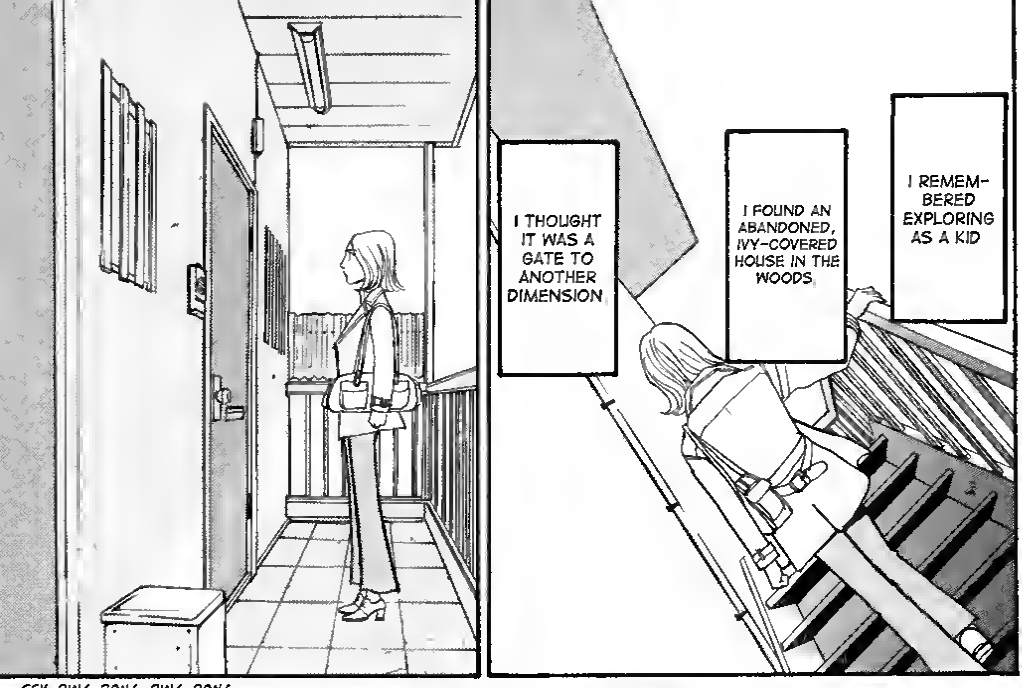


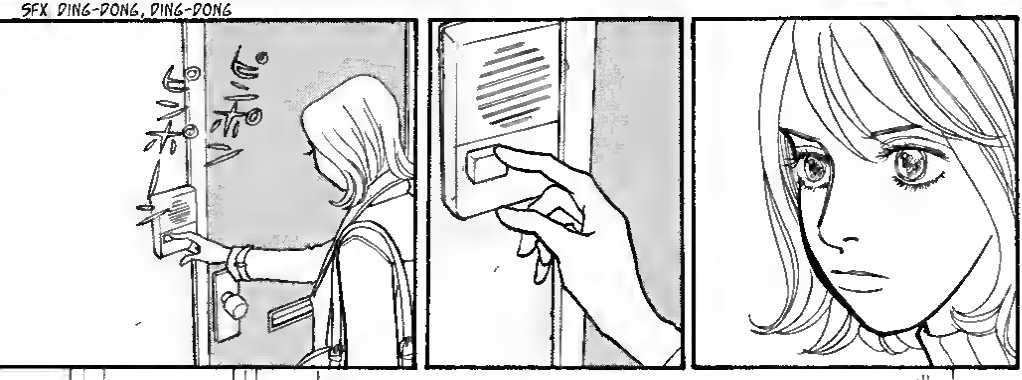
SIGN NAKAMACHI 15-3

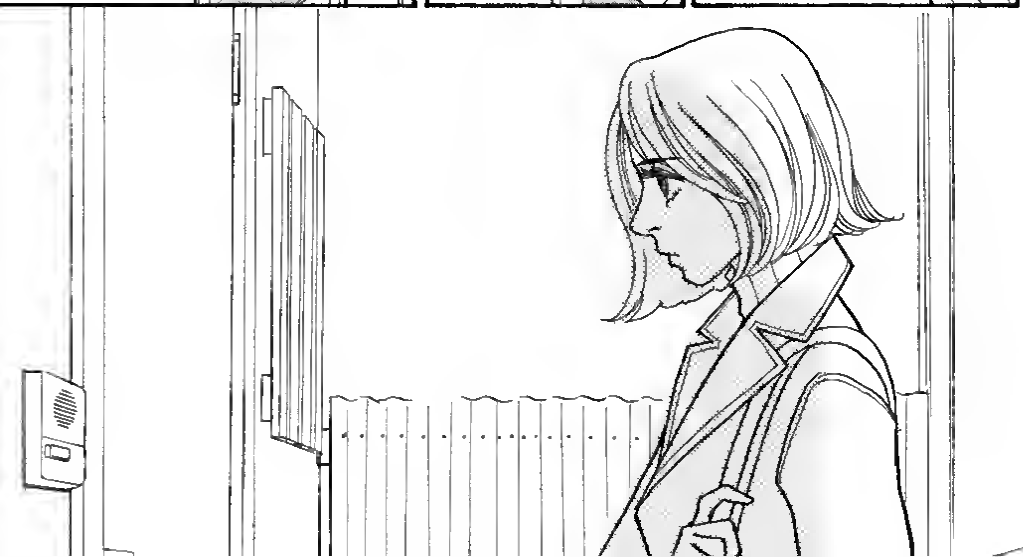


SFX STEP




I REMEMBERED EXPLORING AS A KID
I FOUND AN ABANDONED, IVY-COVERED HOUSE IN THE WOODS.
I THOUGHT IT WAS A GATE TO ANOTHER DIMENSION

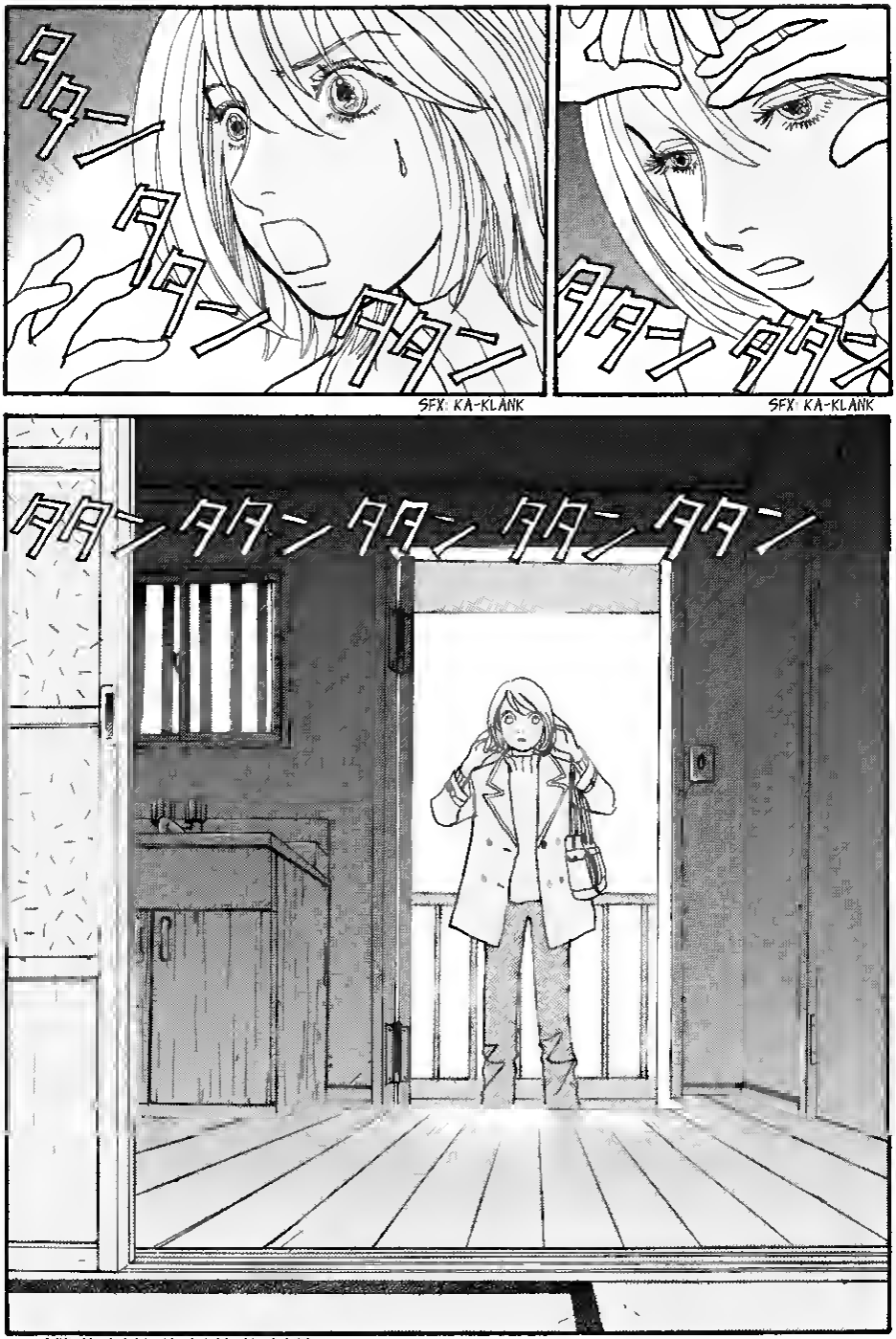

SFX DING-DONG, DING-DONG



SFX CLICK
IT'S OPEN...
THAT KIND OF THING DOESN'T HAPPEN.
NO...
WHAT IF I OPEN THIS AND END UP GETTING MYSELF INTO SOMETHING I CAN'T GET OUT OF...

カチャ
SFX SWING
SFX FLASH

SFX: KA-KLANK...
ガタン!
ガタン!
ガタン!
ガタン!
ガタン!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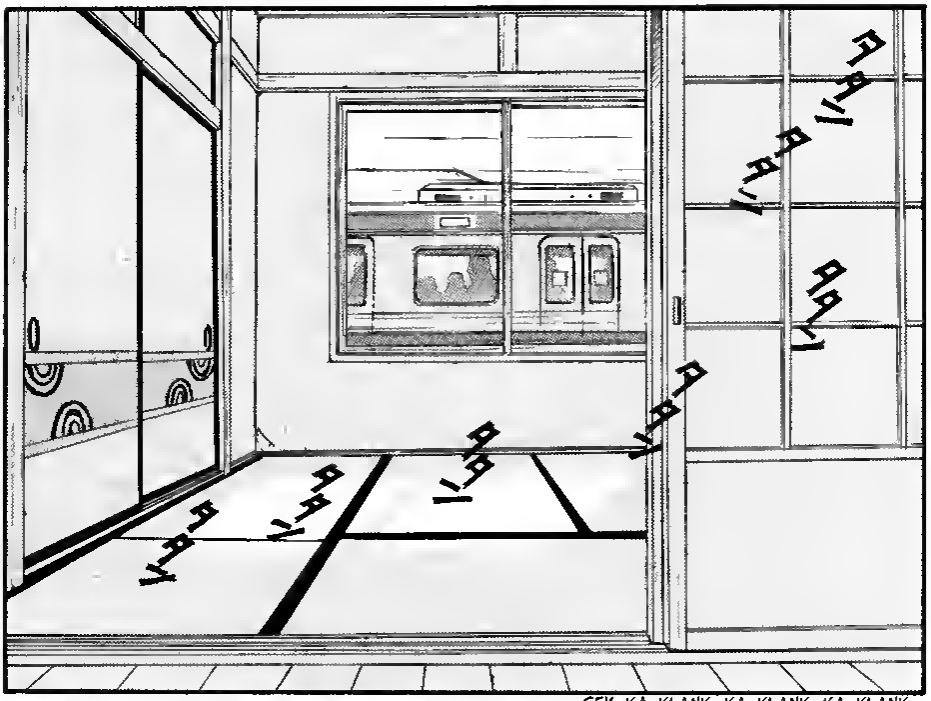
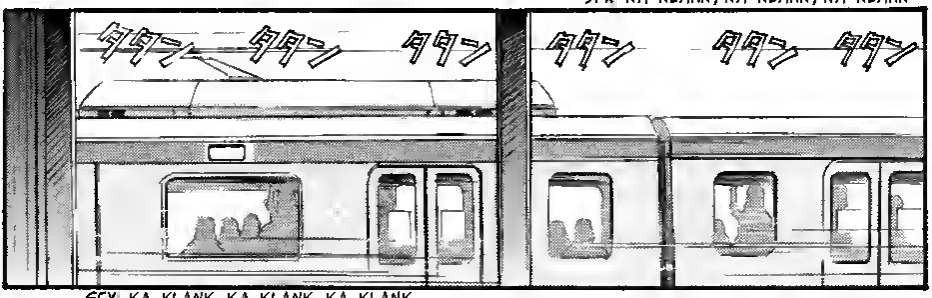
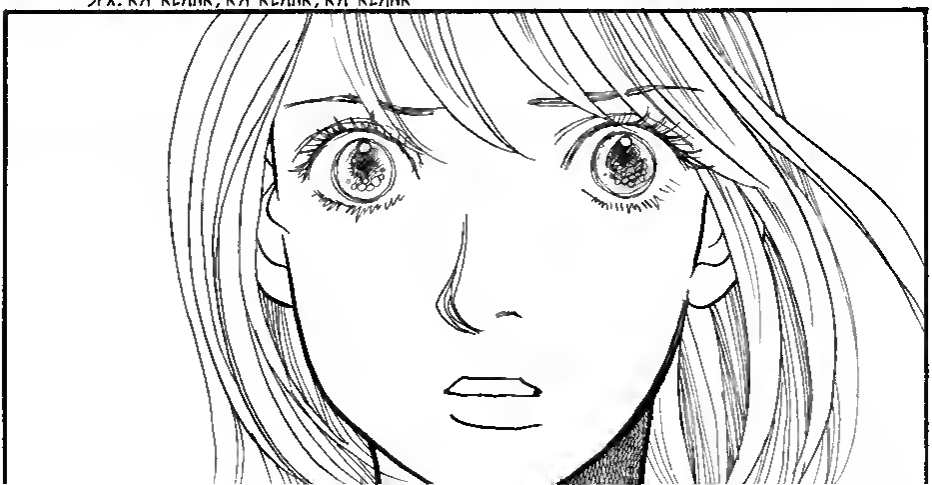
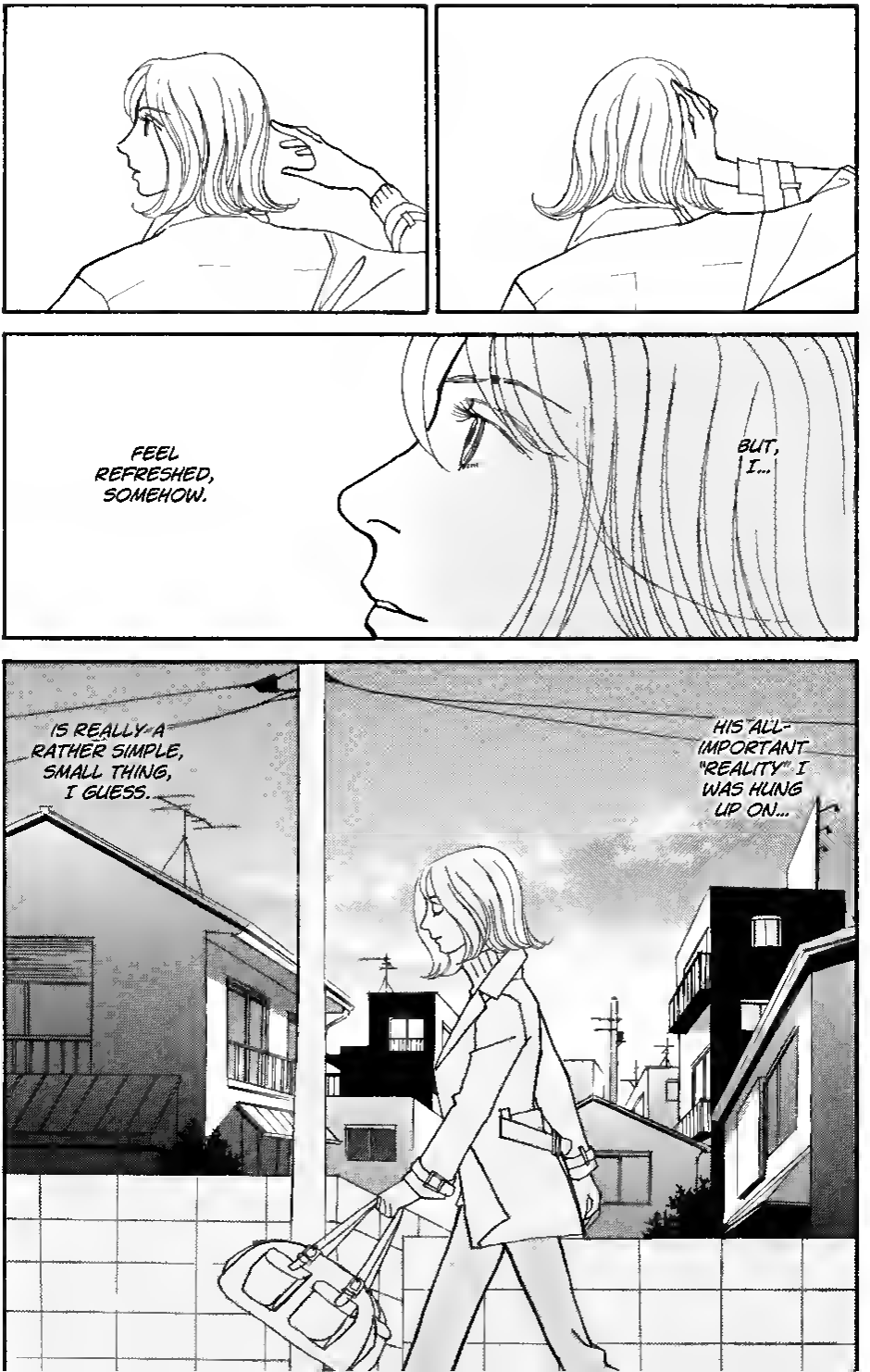
SFX: KA-KLANK
SFX: KA-KLANK
SFX: KA-KLANK, KA-KLANK, KA-KLANK


SFX KA-KLANK, KA-KLANK, KA-KLANK


SFX. KA-KLANK, KA-KLANK, KA-KLANK

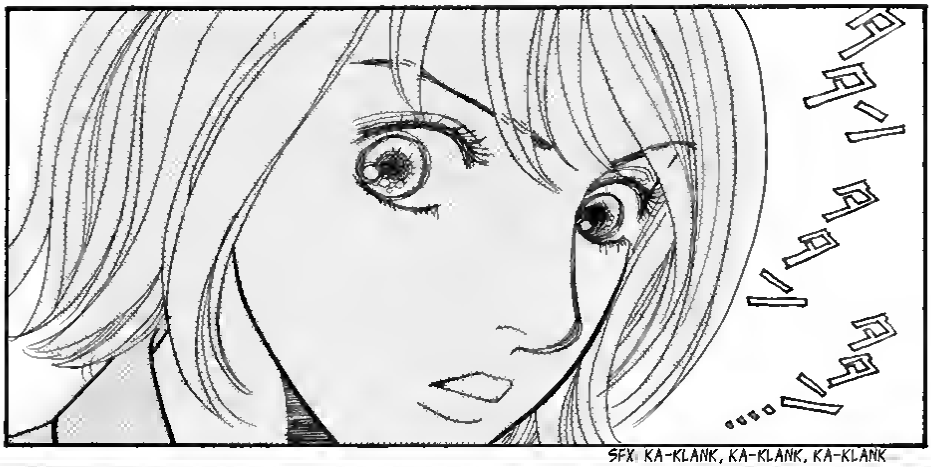


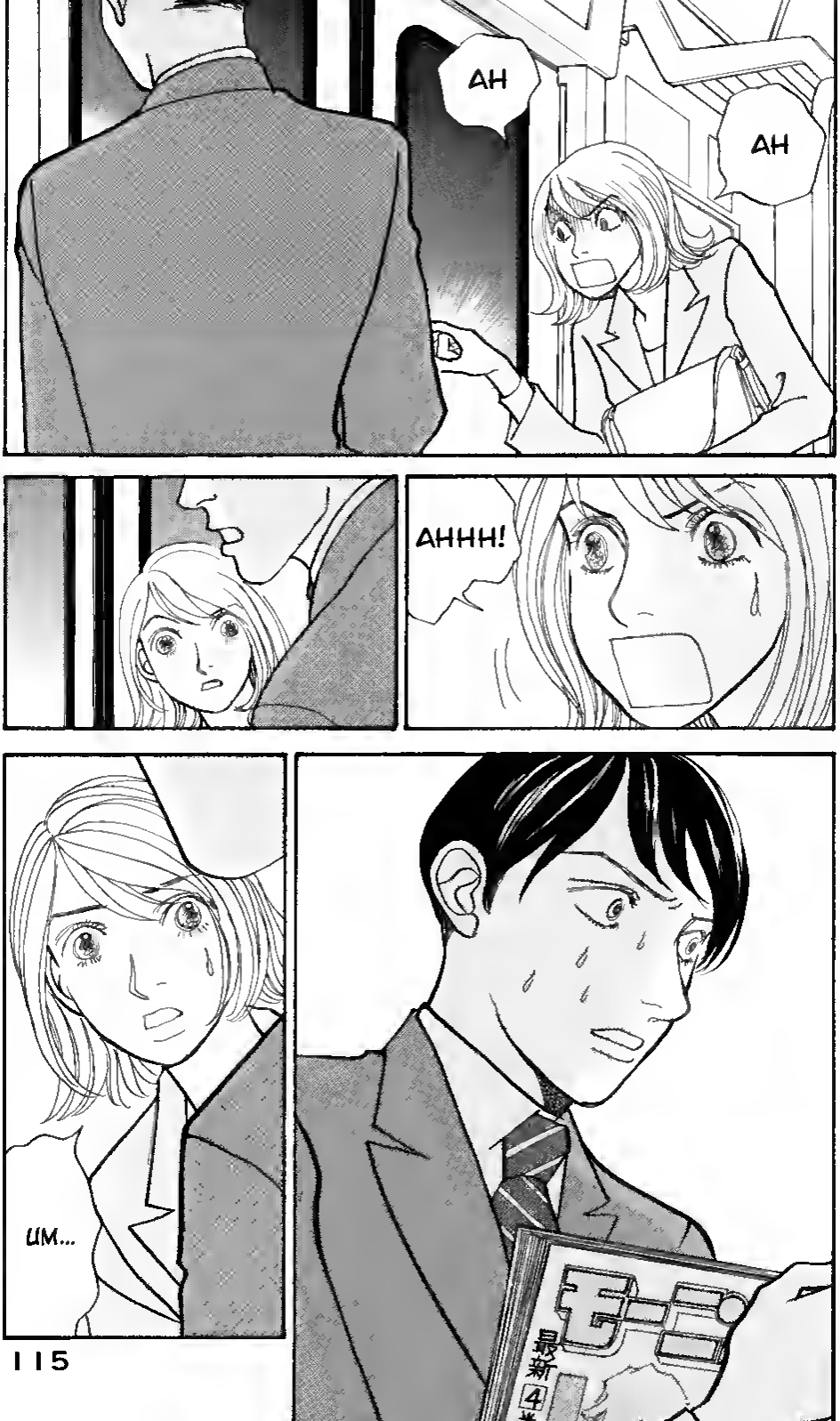
WAS REAL?
SO, NONE OF IT...
カチ
SFX CLICK
IT WAS... ALL IN MY HEAD...?
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME AFTER ALL.

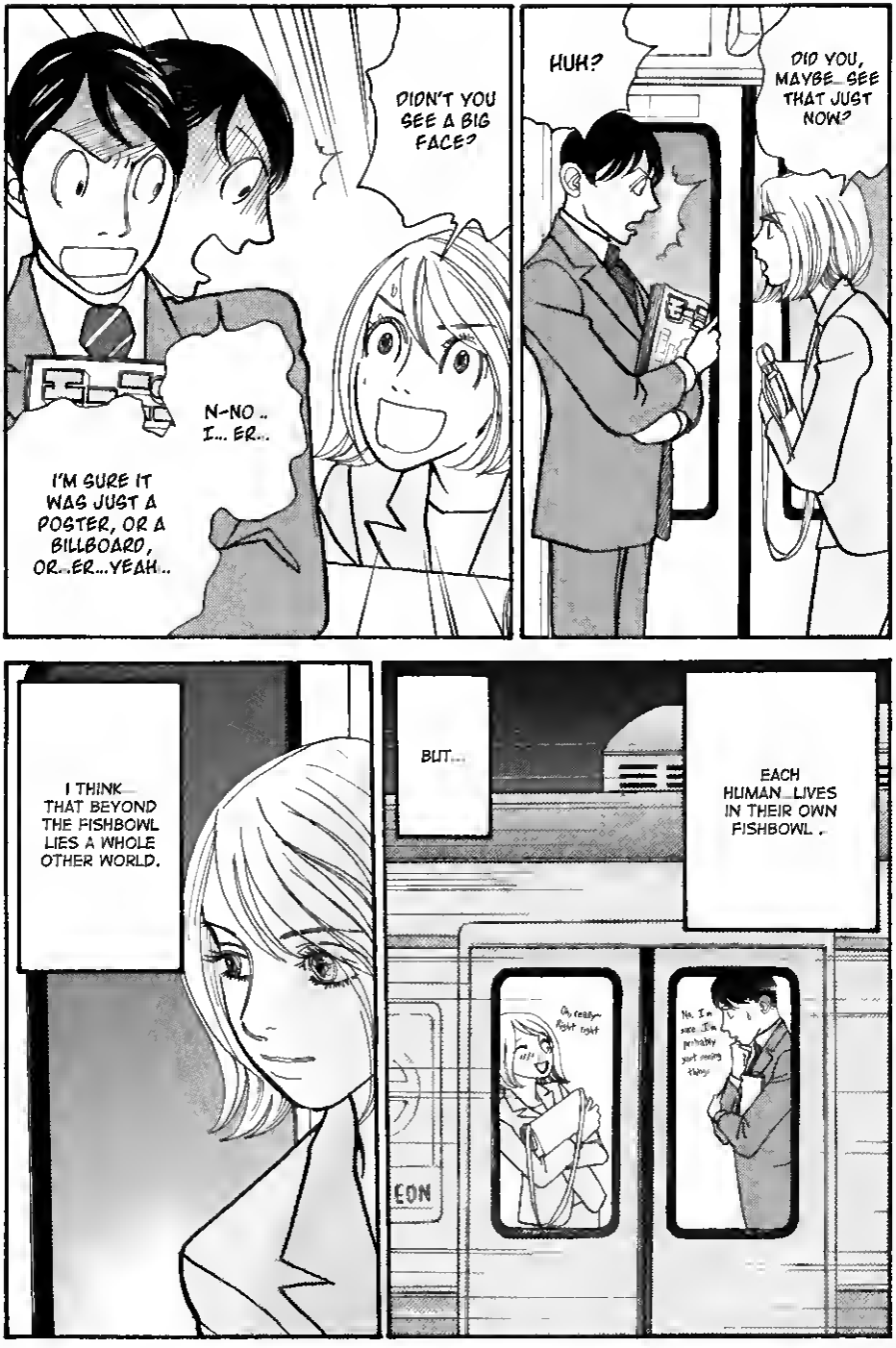

FEEL REFRESHED, SOMEHOW.
BUT, I...
IS REALLY A RATHER SIMPLE, SMALL THING, I GUESS...
HIS ALL-IMPORTANT "REALITY" I WAS HUNG UP ON...

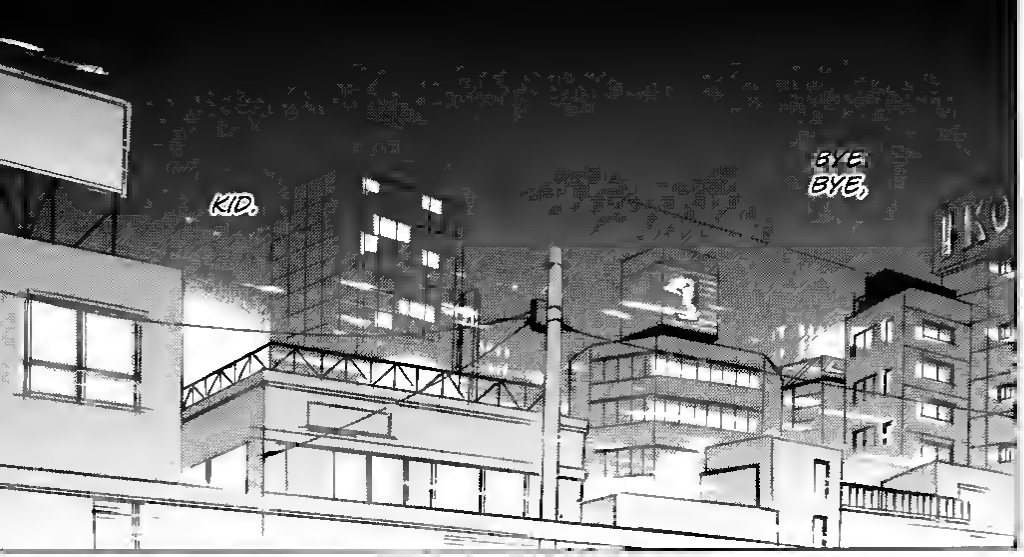
AND WITHIN THIS SMALL WORLD...
YES, SO VERY SMALL.
SFX: TA-DA
I CAN MOVE FORWARD, ONE STEP AT A TIME.

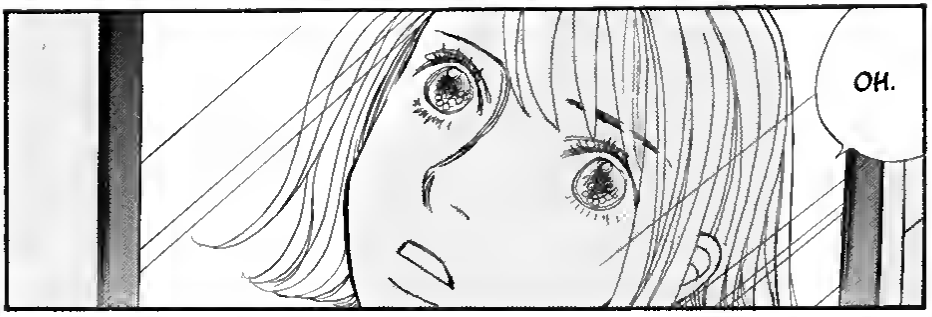
I DO LIKE LOOKING INTO PEOPLE'S WINDOWS FROM THE TRAIN...
BECAUSE YOU CAN SEE ALL KINDS OF LIVES...
SFX: KA-KLANK, KA-KLANK
EVERYONE'S LIVING IN THEIR OWN REALITY, EACH IN THEIR OWN FISHBOWL.


SFX: KA-KLANK, KA-KLANK, KA-KLANK

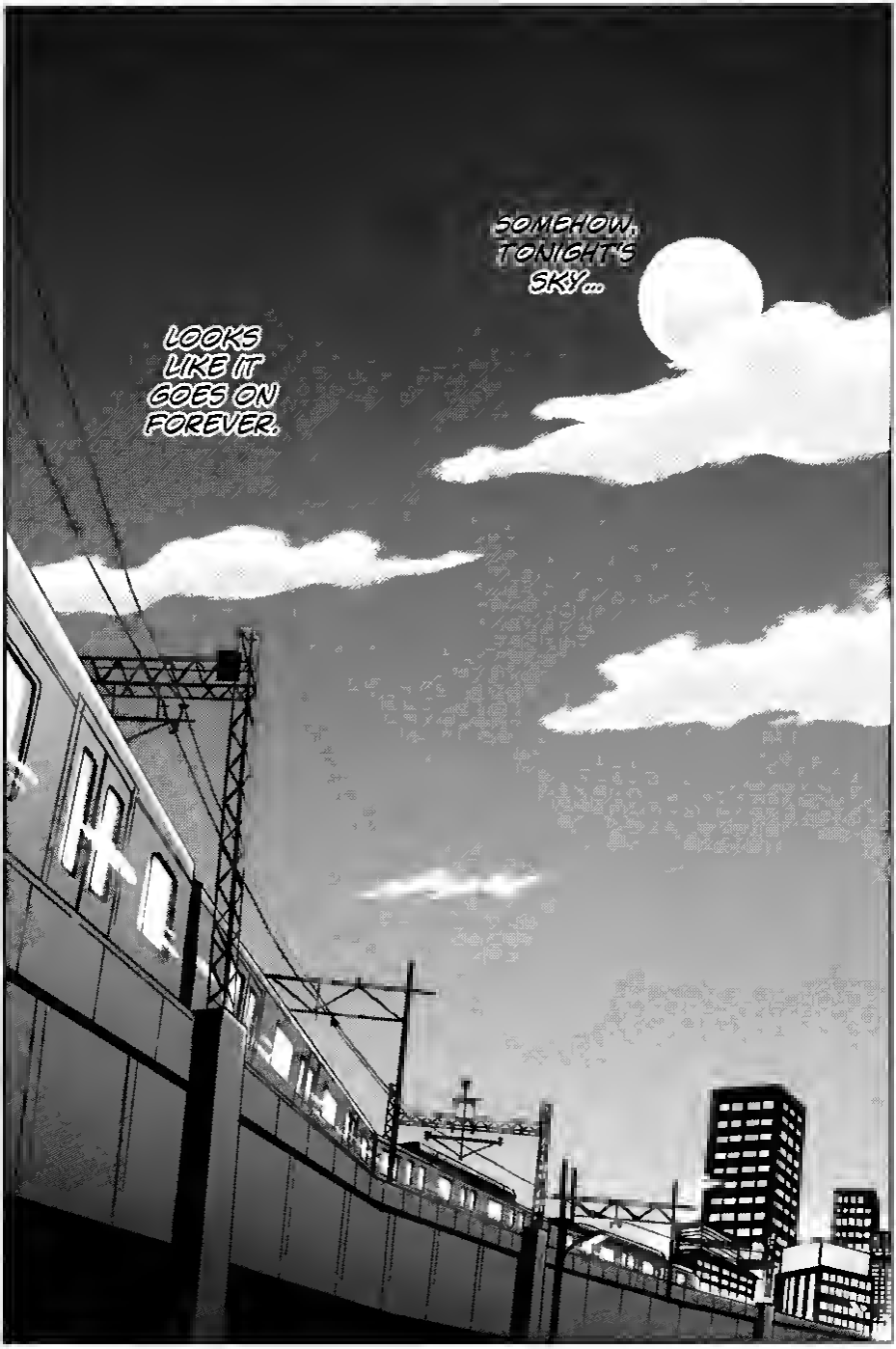

AH
AH
AHHH!
UM...
最新4


DIDN'T YOU SEE A BIG FACE?
N-NO.. I... ER..
I'M SURE IT WAS JUST A POSTER, OR A BILLBOARD, OR...ER...YEAH..
HUH?
DID YOU, MAYBE... SEE THAT JUST NOW?
I THINK... THAT BEYOND THE FISHBOWL LIES A WHOLE OTHER WORLD.
BUT...
EACH HUMAN...LIVES IN THEIR OWN FISHBOWL.
Oh really? Right right
No, I'm sure...I'm probably just seeing things
CON


KID.
BYE,
BYE.


OH.

IF YOU LOOKED AT IT FROM THE MOON, THE WHOLE EARTH WOULD BE A FISH BOWL.
THE MOON...


SOMEHOW, TONIGHT'S SKY...
LOOKS LIKE IT GOES ON FOREVER.

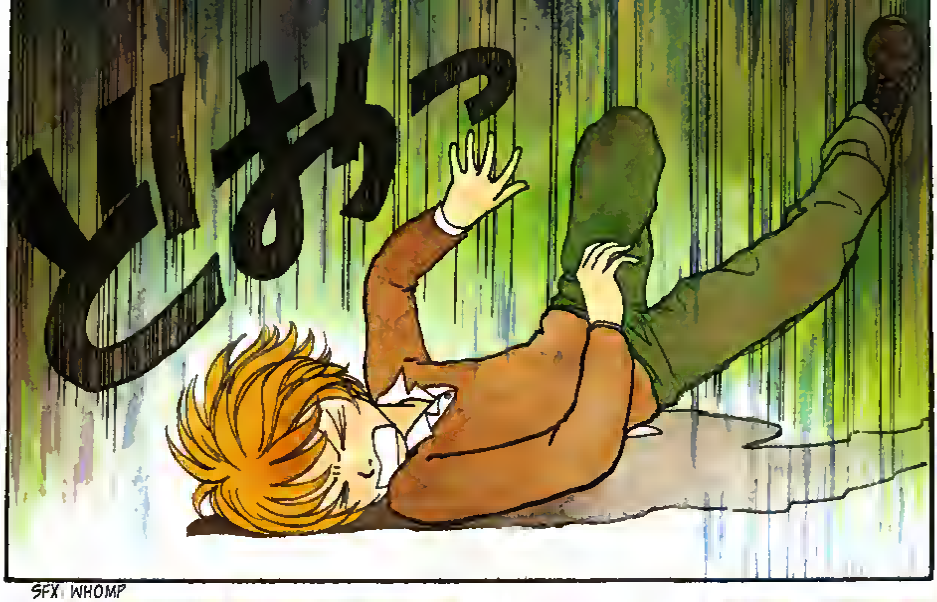
VILLAGE IDIOT WANTS YOU

CLEANERS
TYPESETTERS

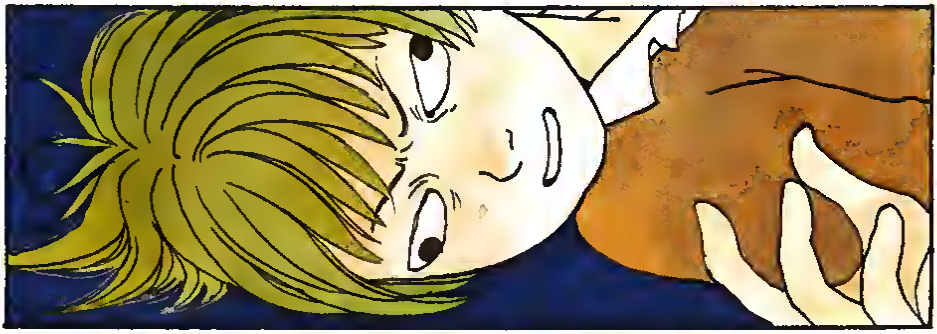
APPLY TODAY!

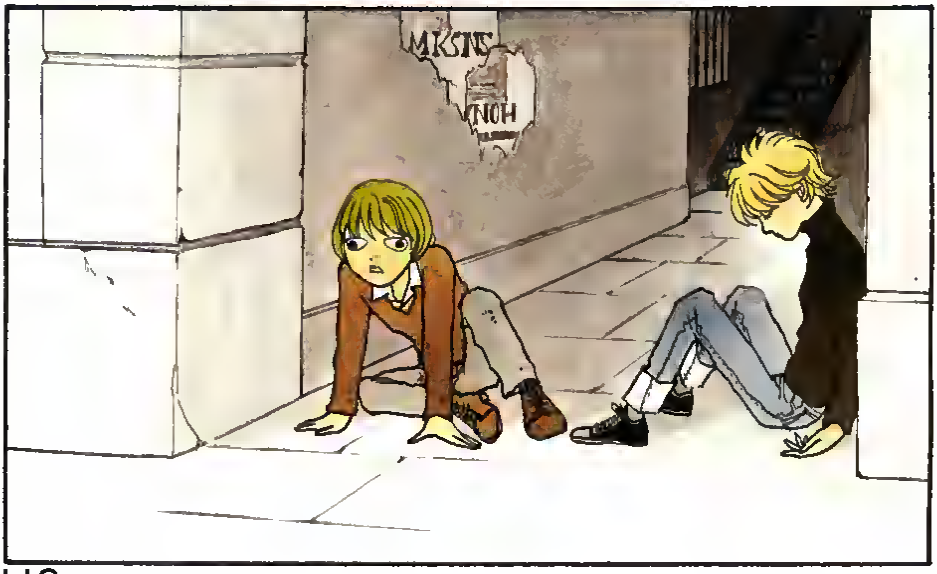
http://vi-scans.com

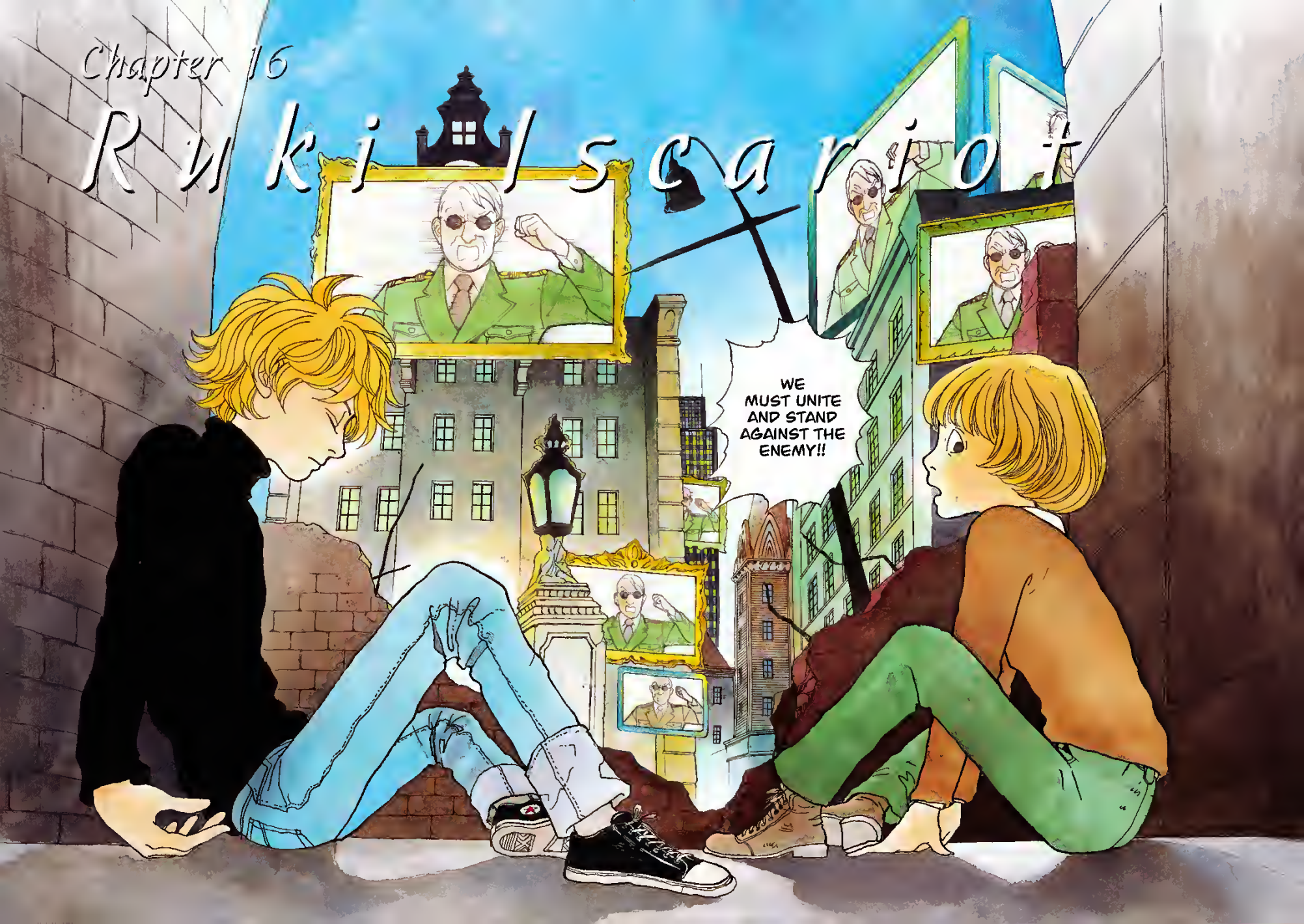
#viscans on IRCHighway



SFX: WHOMP

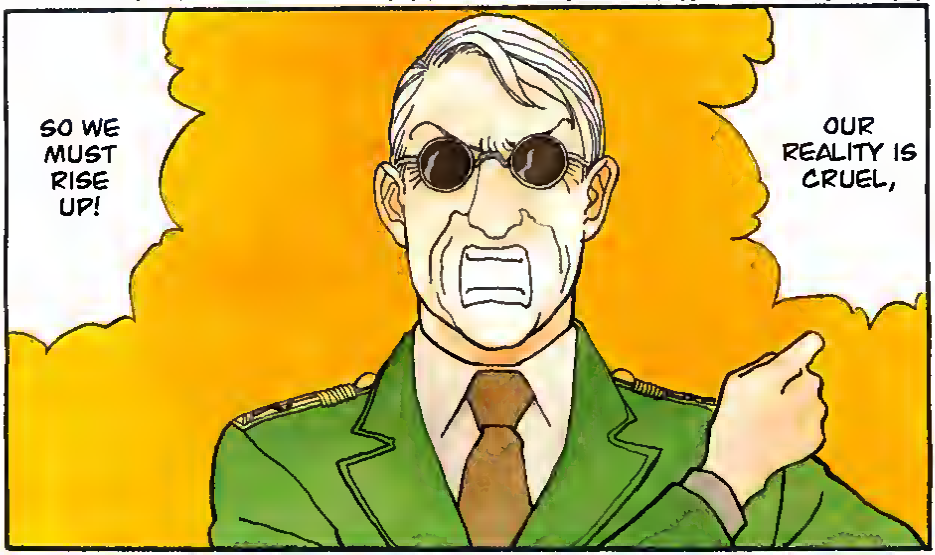




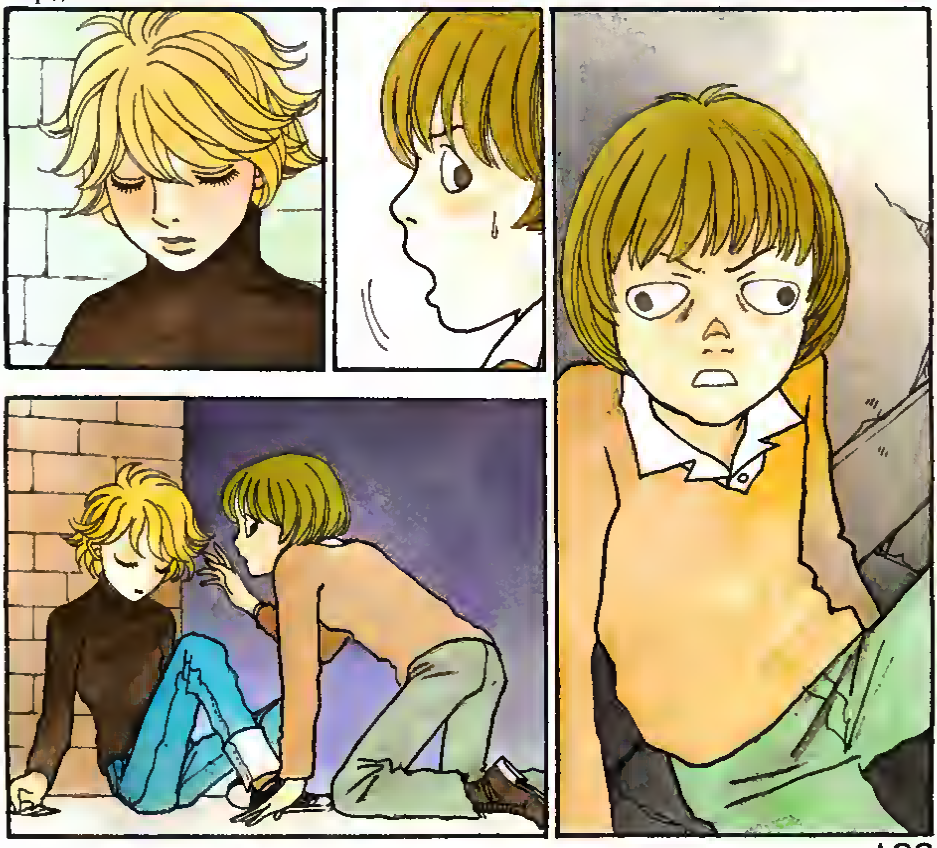

Chapter 16
Rukiscariot
WE MUST UNITE AND STAND AGAINST THE ENEMY!!

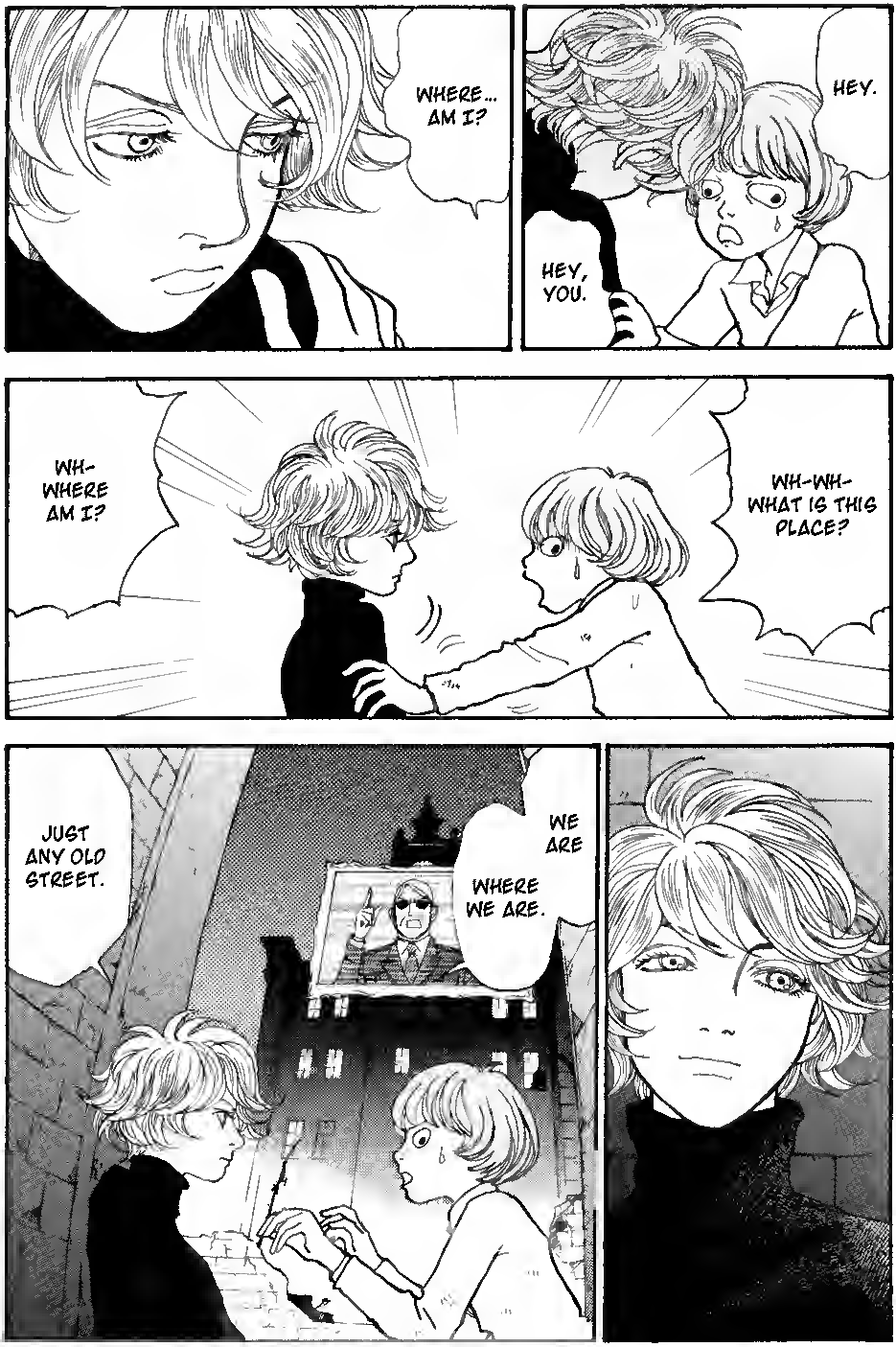
Fushigi na Shounen
by Yamashita Kazumi
A Village Idiot Scanlation

Translator: Taylor | Cleaners: Everath, Iruyily | Proofreader: spacehead | Typesetters: Kristjan, Iruyily

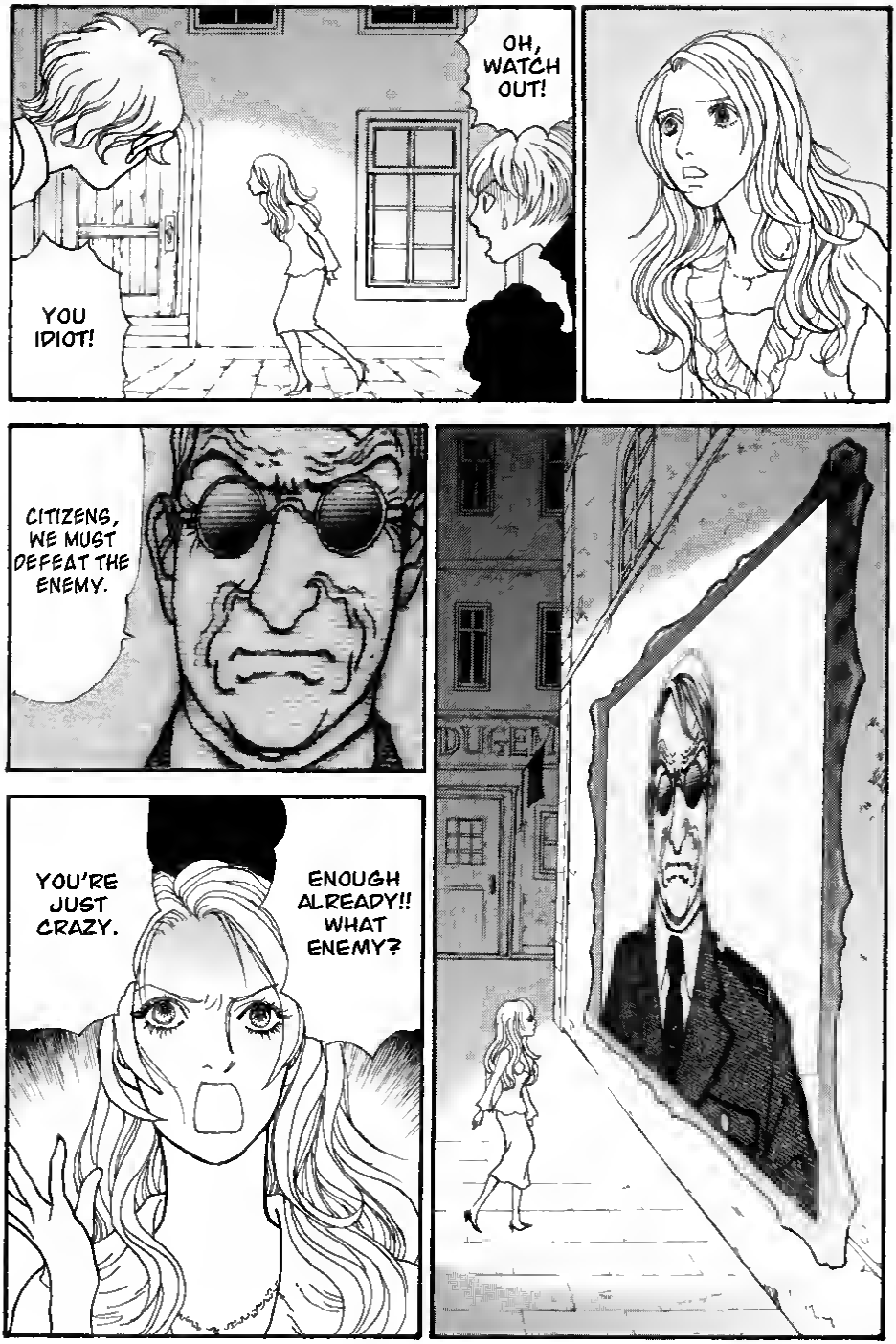


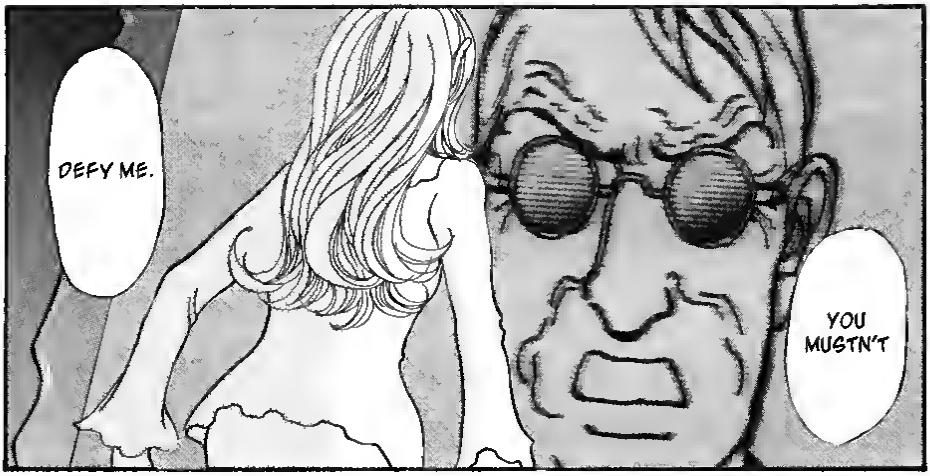
http://vi-scans.com #viscans on Rizon

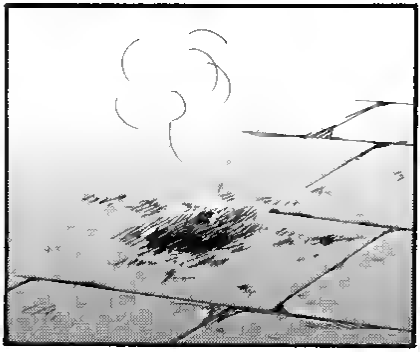


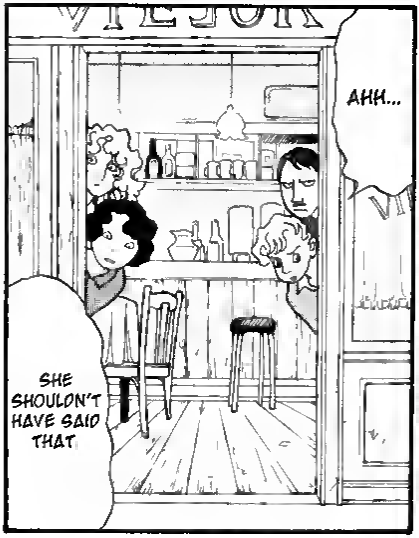

WHERE... AM I?
HEY.
HEY, YOU.
WH-WHERE AM I?
WH-WH-WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
JUST ANY OLD STREET.
WE ARE WHERE WE ARE.

ANY OLD STREET...


OH, WATCH OUT!
YOU IDIOT!
CITIZENS, WE MUST DEFEAT THE ENEMY.
YOU'RE JUST CRAZY.
ENOUGH ALREADY!! WHAT ENEMY?


DEFY ME.
YOU MUSTN'T

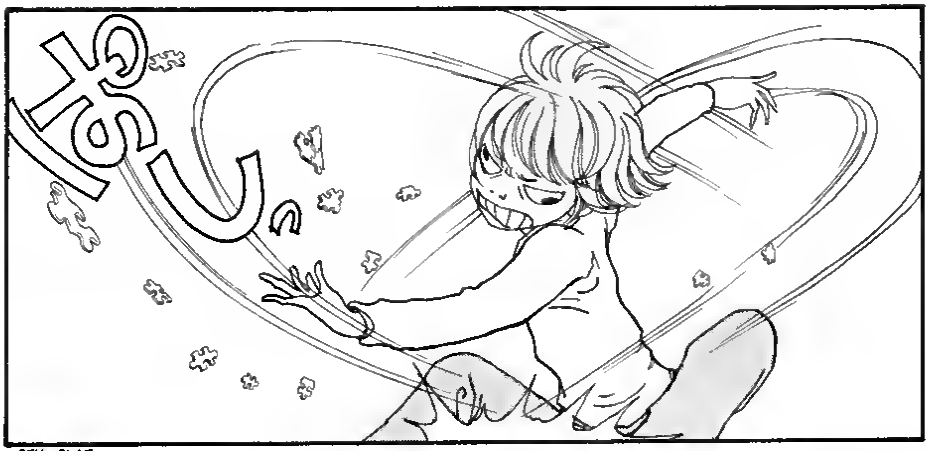



AHH...
SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT

WHO KNOWS?
SOME-THING YOU HUMANS CAME UP WITH.
WH-WHAT WAS THAT?
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
AND WHO IS THIS WEIRDO, ANYWAY?
WHAT DOES HE MEAN, THIS IS JUST ANY OLD STREET?
LET ME THINK... LET ME THINK...
W-W-WAIT A SEC...

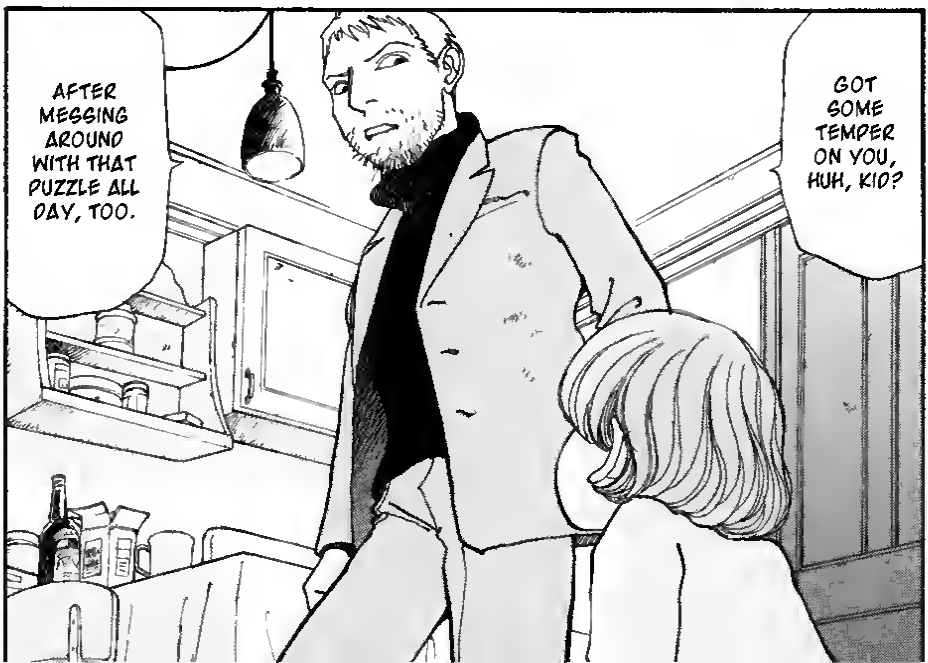
OH...
SFX: FLASH

SFX: PRESS
SFX: PUSH
SFX: SHOVE SHOVE

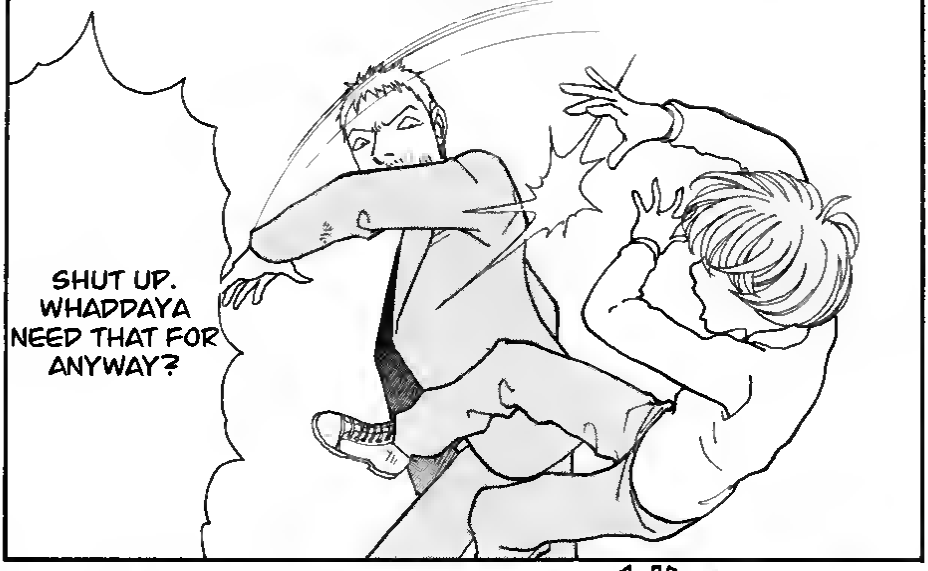


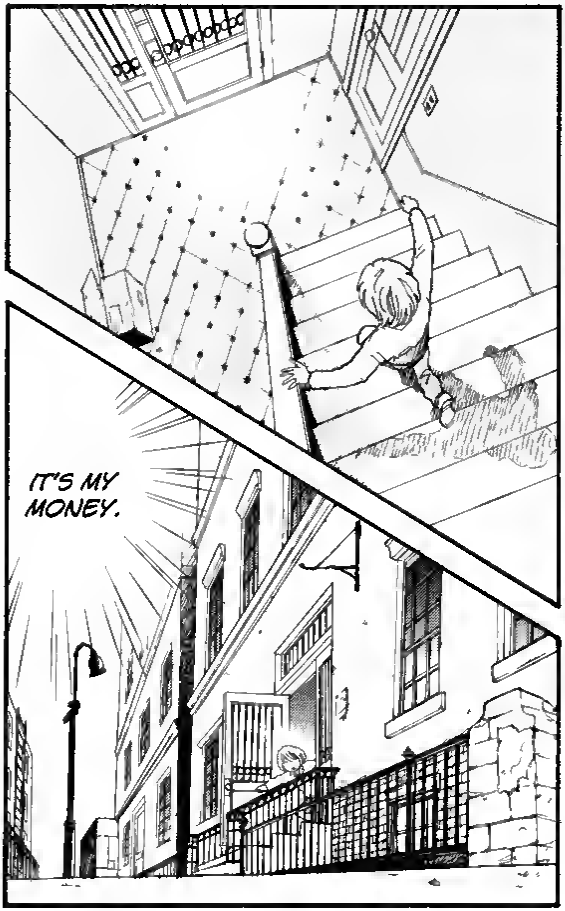
SFX SLAP

SFX SCATTER



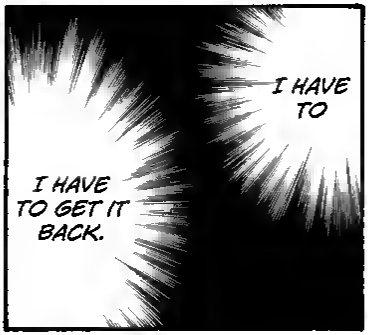
ANYWAY, YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANY MONEY IN HERE, HAVE YOU?
HOW IRRESPON-SIBLE
THAT WOMAN
SHE JUST DIES AND LEAVES ME WITH THIS CREEPY KID.
HM?
SHIT NO MONEY.
SFX RUMMAGE
N-NO, YOU C-CAN'T HAVE THAT!! M-MOM SAVED THAT B-B-BEFORE SHE D-DIED AND IT'S FOR ME TO G-GO TO SCHOOL, SHE SAID!
SHE T-TOLD ME T-TO K-KEEP IT SAFE.
WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
SO THAT'S WHERE SHE HID IT.
SFX POP

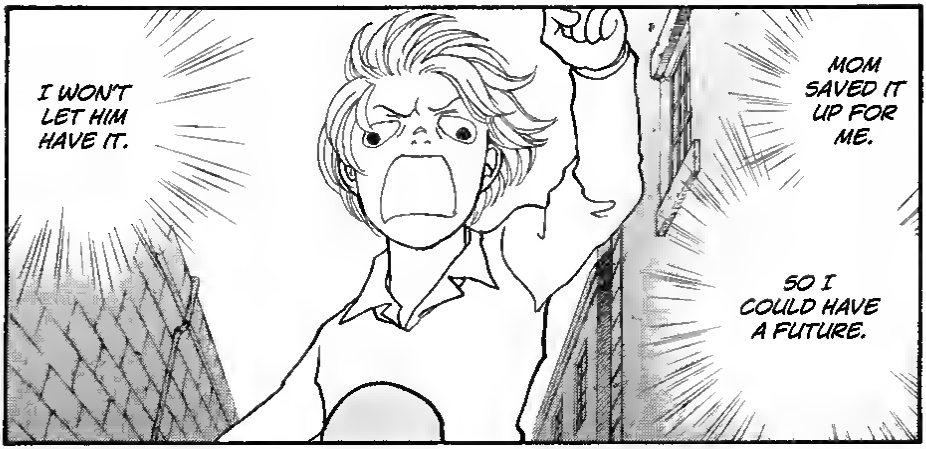

SHUT UP. WHADDAYA NEED THAT FOR ANYWAY?


IT'S MY MONEY.

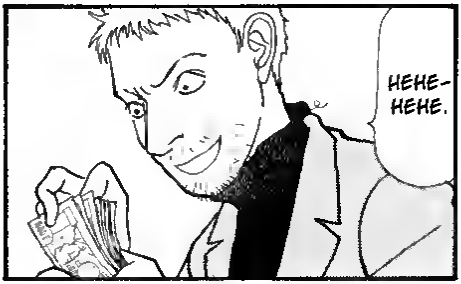
SFX: SLAM
バーン

AHH.
AHH...

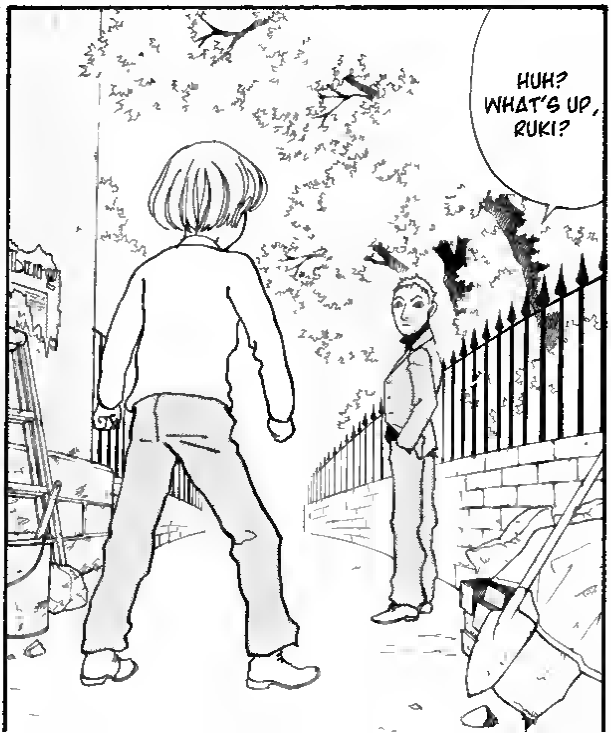

I HAVE TO
I HAVE TO GET IT BACK.

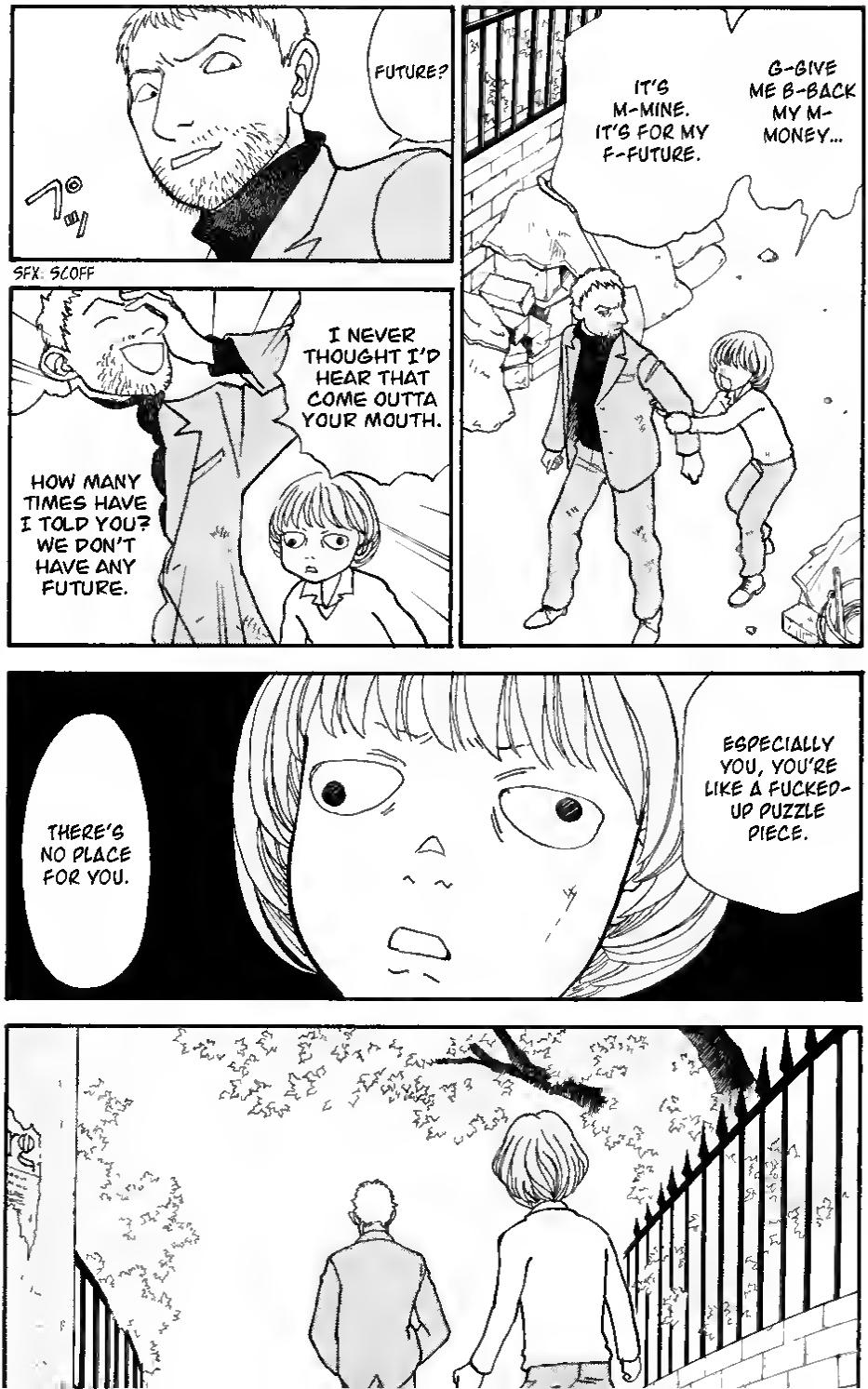

I WON'T LET HIM HAVE IT.
MOM SAVED IT UP FOR ME.
SO I COULD HAVE A FUTURE.

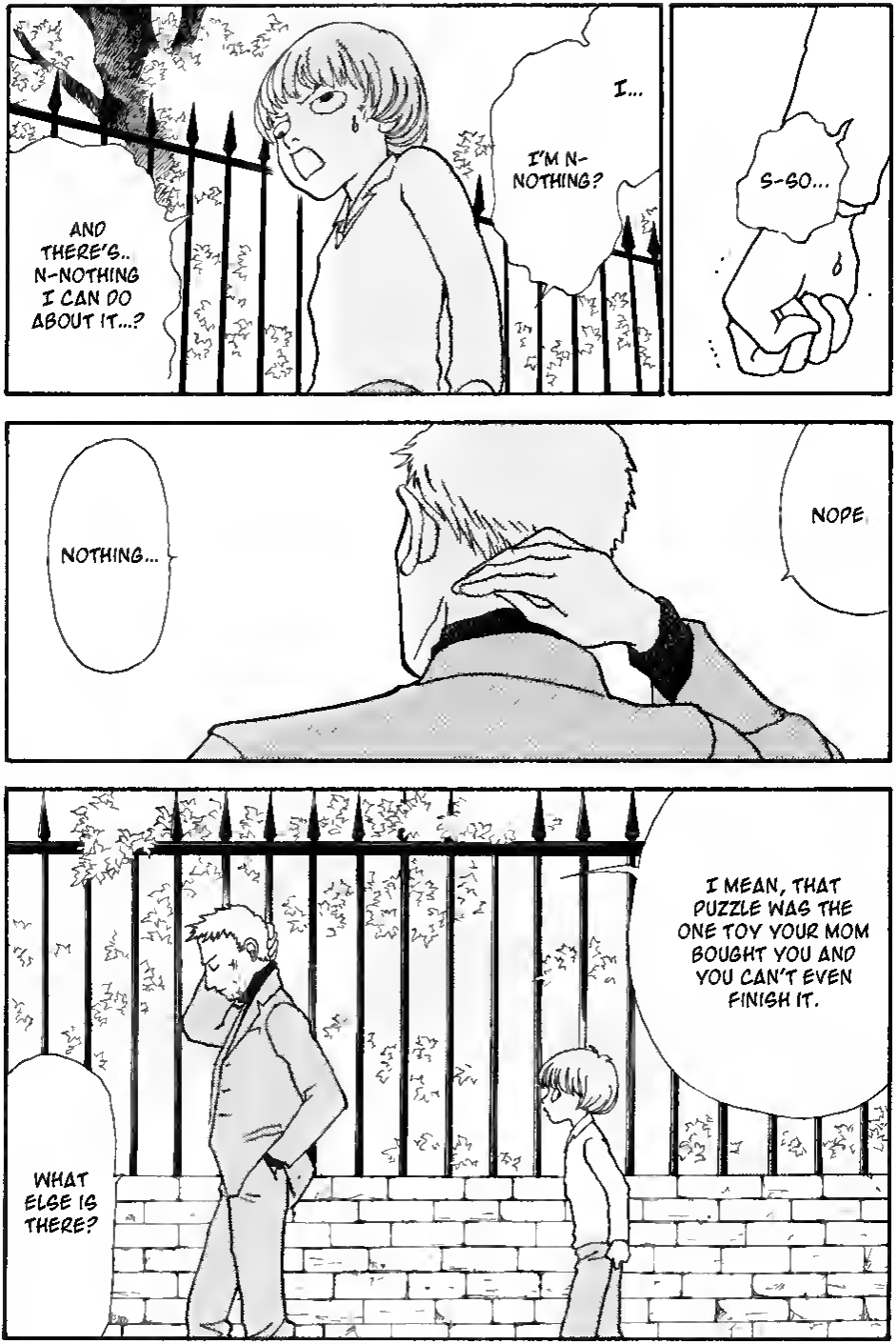
D-DAD...

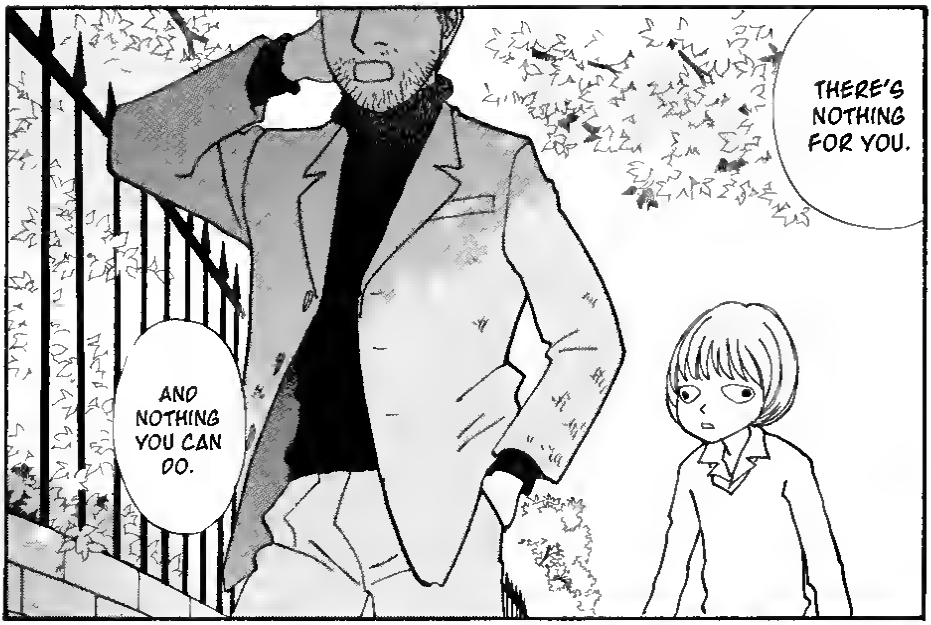

HEHE-HEHE.

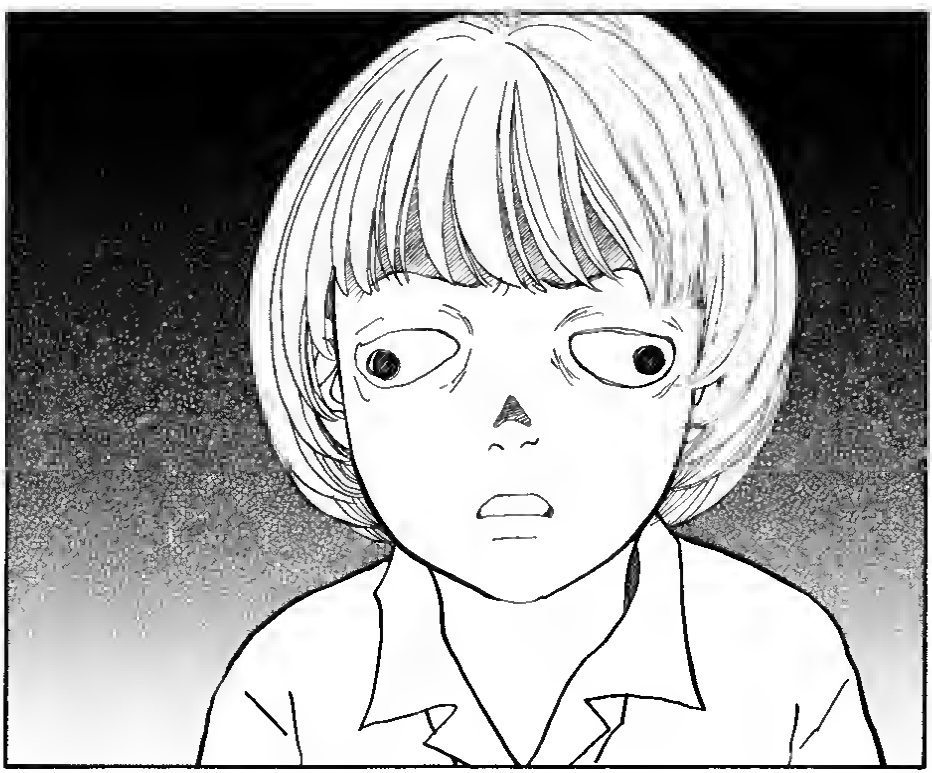
B-BACK MY M-MONEY...
G-GIVE ME..

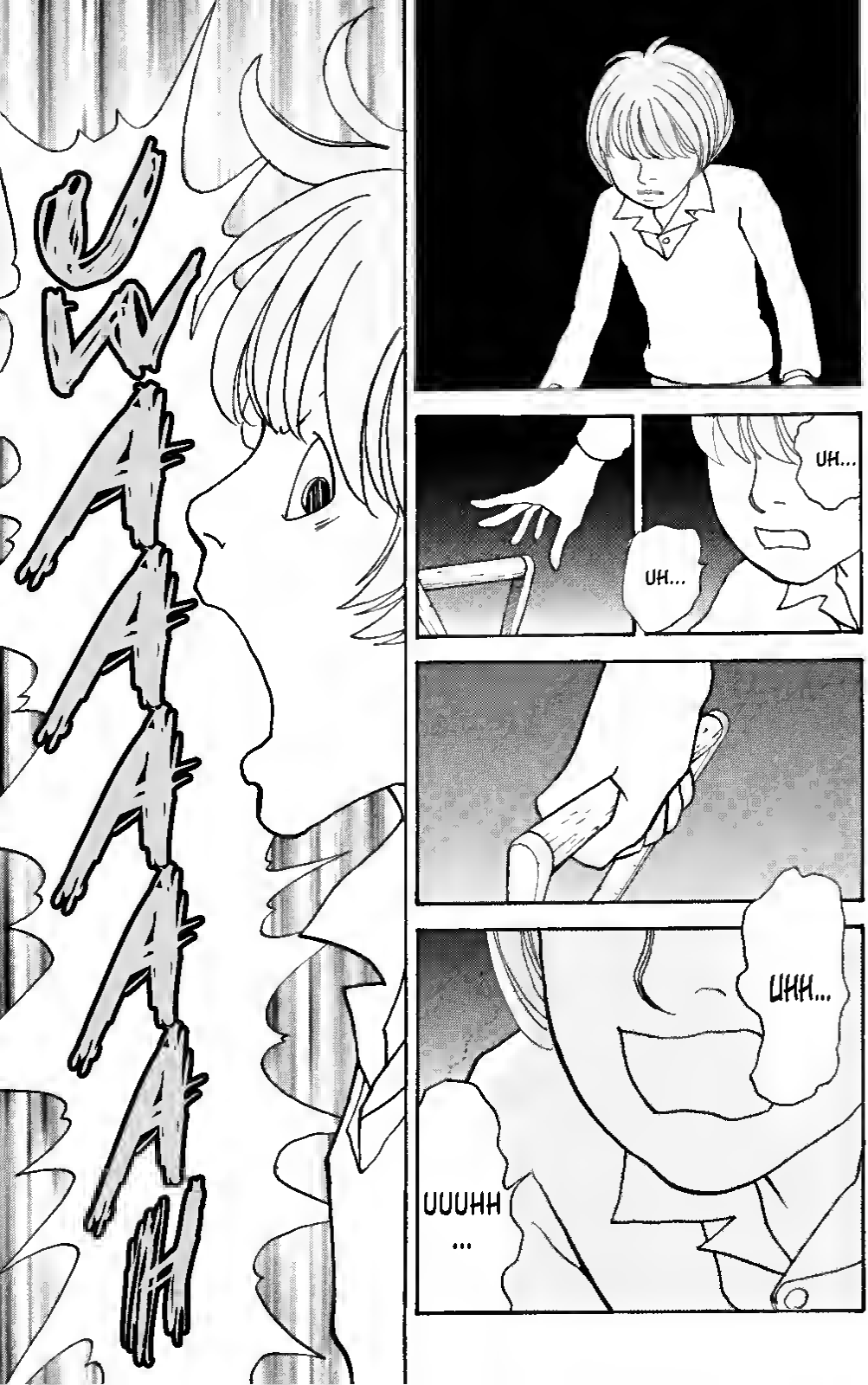

HUH? WHAT'S UP, RUKI?


FUTURE?
フッ
SFX: SCOFF
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR THAT COME OUTTA YOUR MOUTH.
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU? WE DON'T HAVE ANY FUTURE.
G-GIVE ME B-BACK MY M-MONEY...
IT'S M-MINE. IT'S FOR MY F-FUTURE.
ESPECIALLY YOU, YOU'RE LIKE A FUCKED-UP PUZZLE PIECE.
THERE'S NO PLACE FOR YOU.


AND THERE'S.. N-NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT...?
I'M N-NOTHING?
I...
S-SO...
NOTHING...
NOPE
WHAT ELSE IS THERE?
I MEAN, THAT PUZZLE WAS THE ONE TOY YOUR MOM BOUGHT YOU AND YOU CAN'T EVEN FINISH IT.


THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU.
AND NOTHING YOU CAN DO.




UH...
UH...
UHH...
UUUHH
...

SFX: THUNK

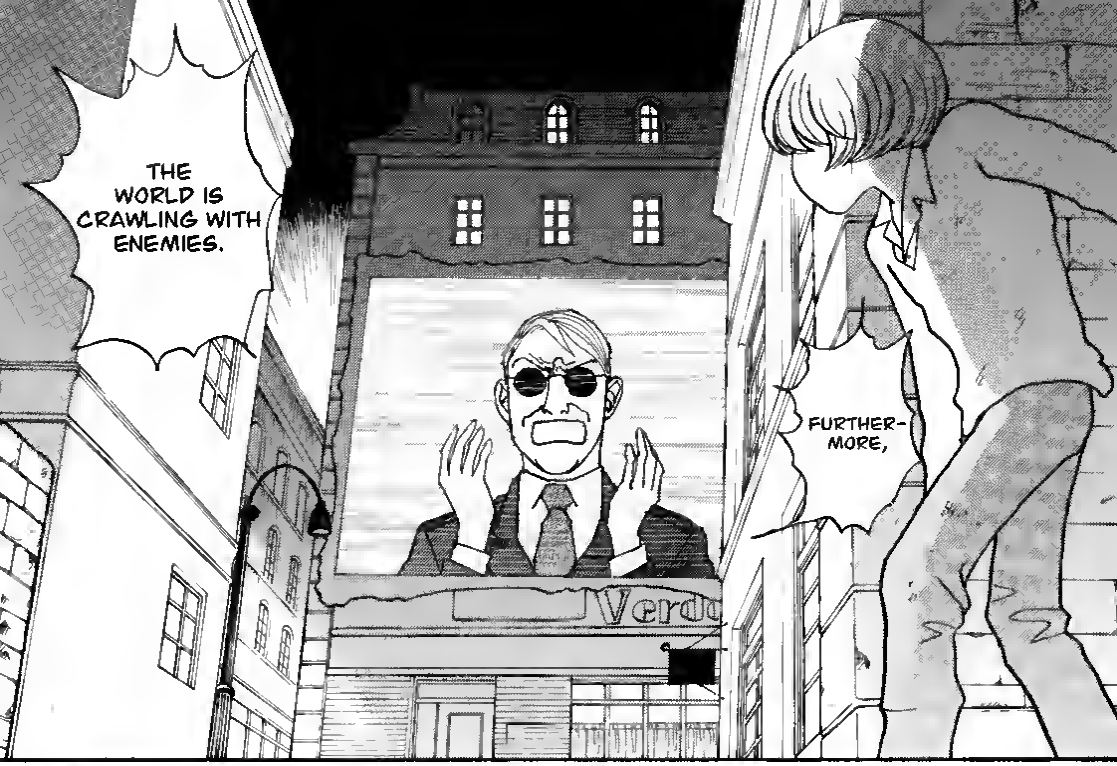
SFX CHEEP CHEEP CHEEP

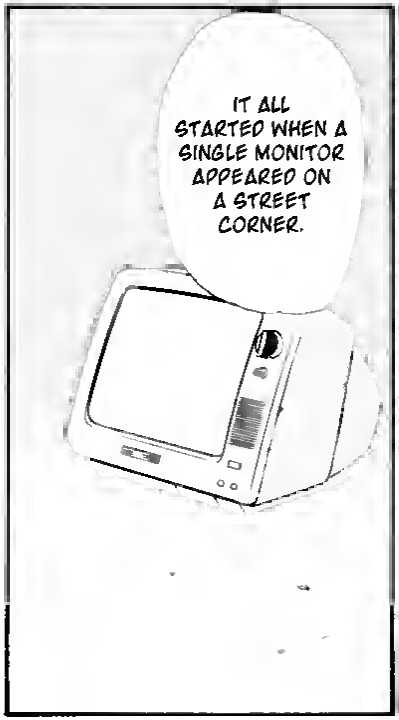
RUKI.
HEY.
I WANTED TO MEET YOU.
SFX HEARTBEAT

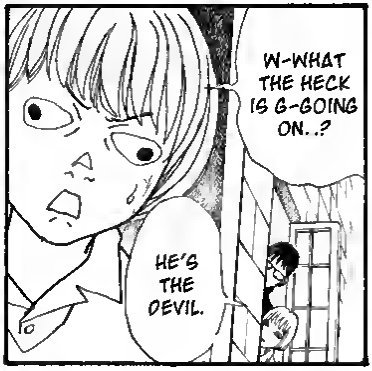
THAT'S YOUR DAD, RIGHT?
WHY'D YOU KILL HIM?
B-BE-CAUSE...
I... HAVEN'T G-GOT ANYTHING.
AND I C-CAN'T D-DO ANYTHING.

D-DO YOU REALLY NEED A REASON?
WHY NOT?
WHY CAN'T YOU?
HMM?
YOU'VE SURE THOUGHT THIS THROUGH.
I C-CAN'T D-DO ANYTHING B-BECAUSE I C-CAN'T.
IS THIS WHAT YOU EXPECTED?
?

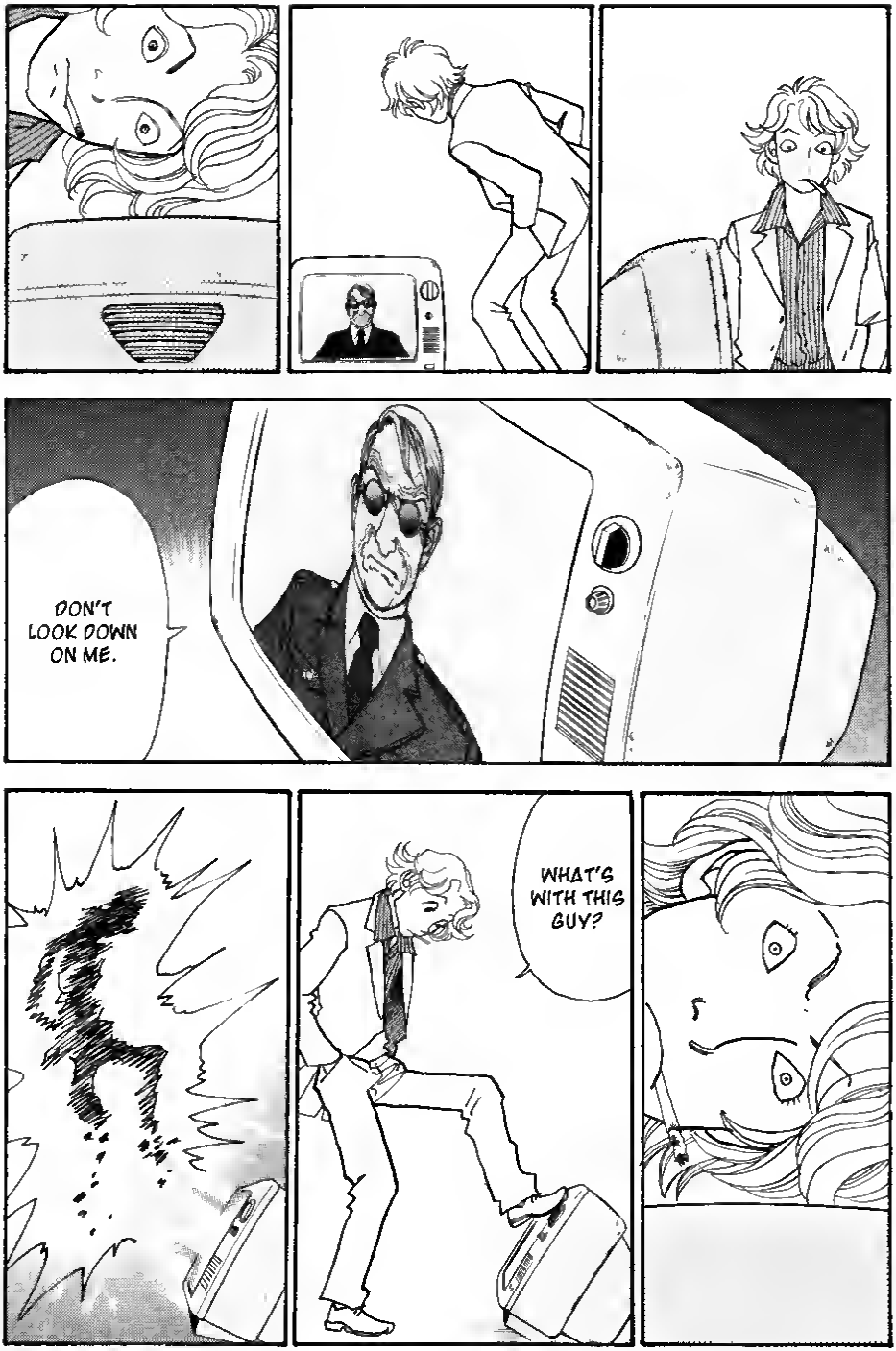
THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER.
WHO IS THE ENEMY?!
WHEN I WOKE UP, I WAS HERE.
THE ENEMY IS ANYONE WHO LOOKS DOWN ON US.
ANYONE WHO OPPRESSES US OR TREATS US LIKE WE DON'T EXIST.
WE MUST BE DETERMINED, AND WE MUST TOPPLE THE ENEMY.

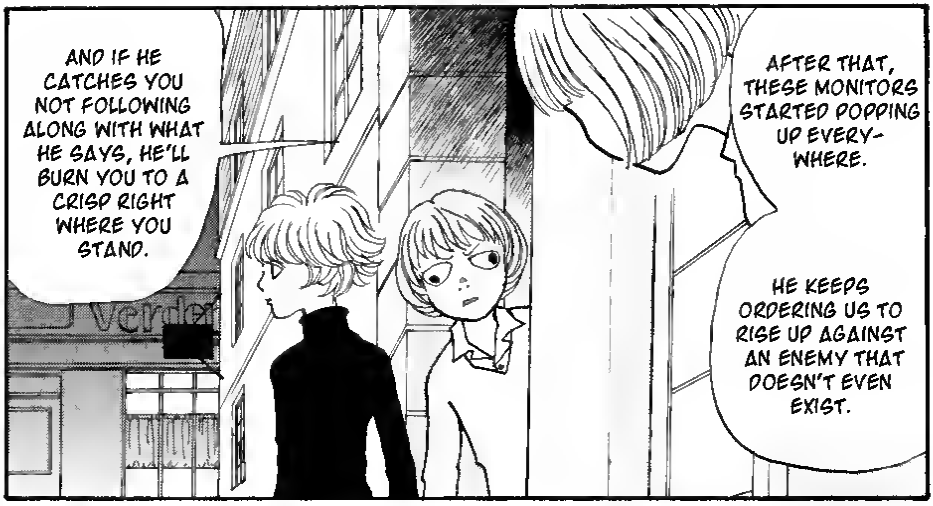

THE WORLD IS CRAWLING WITH ENEMIES.
FURTHER-MORE,

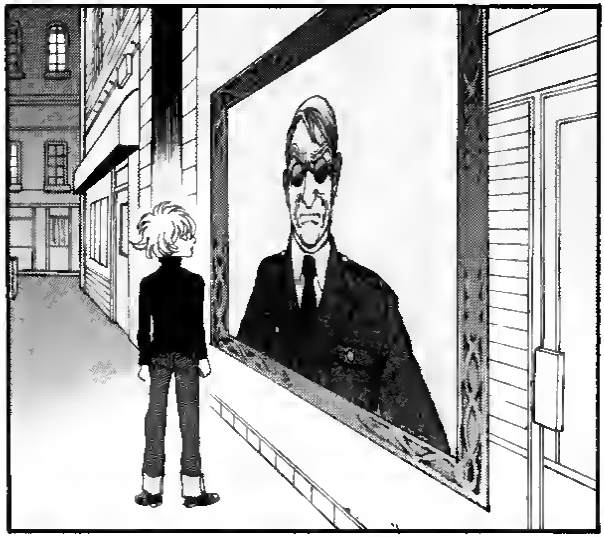

IT ALL STARTED WHEN A SINGLE MONITOR APPEARED ON A STREET CORNER.

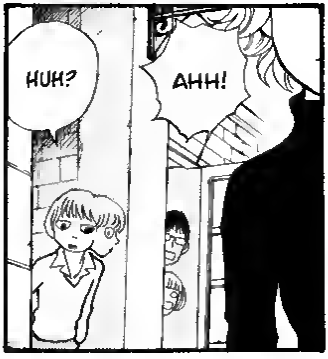

W-WHAT THE HECK IS G-GOING ON..?
HE'S THE DEVIL.

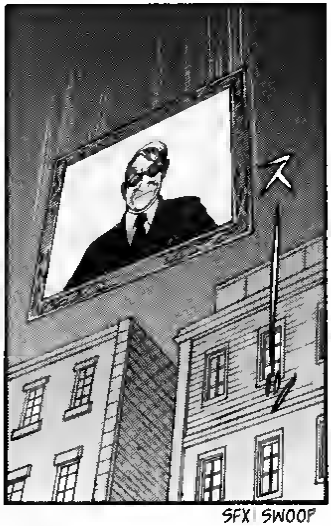
A DEVIL WITH THE POWER TO BURN ANYONE WHO MEETS HIS EYES TO A CRISP.


DON'T LOOK DOWN ON ME.
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?


AND IF HE CATCHES YOU NOT FOLLOWING ALONG WITH WHAT HE SAYS, HE'LL BURN YOU TO A CRISP RIGHT WHERE YOU STAND.
AFTER THAT, THESE MONITORS STARTED POPPING UP EVERY-WHERE.
HE KEEPS ORDERING US TO RISE UP AGAINST AN ENEMY THAT DOESN'T EVEN EXIST.



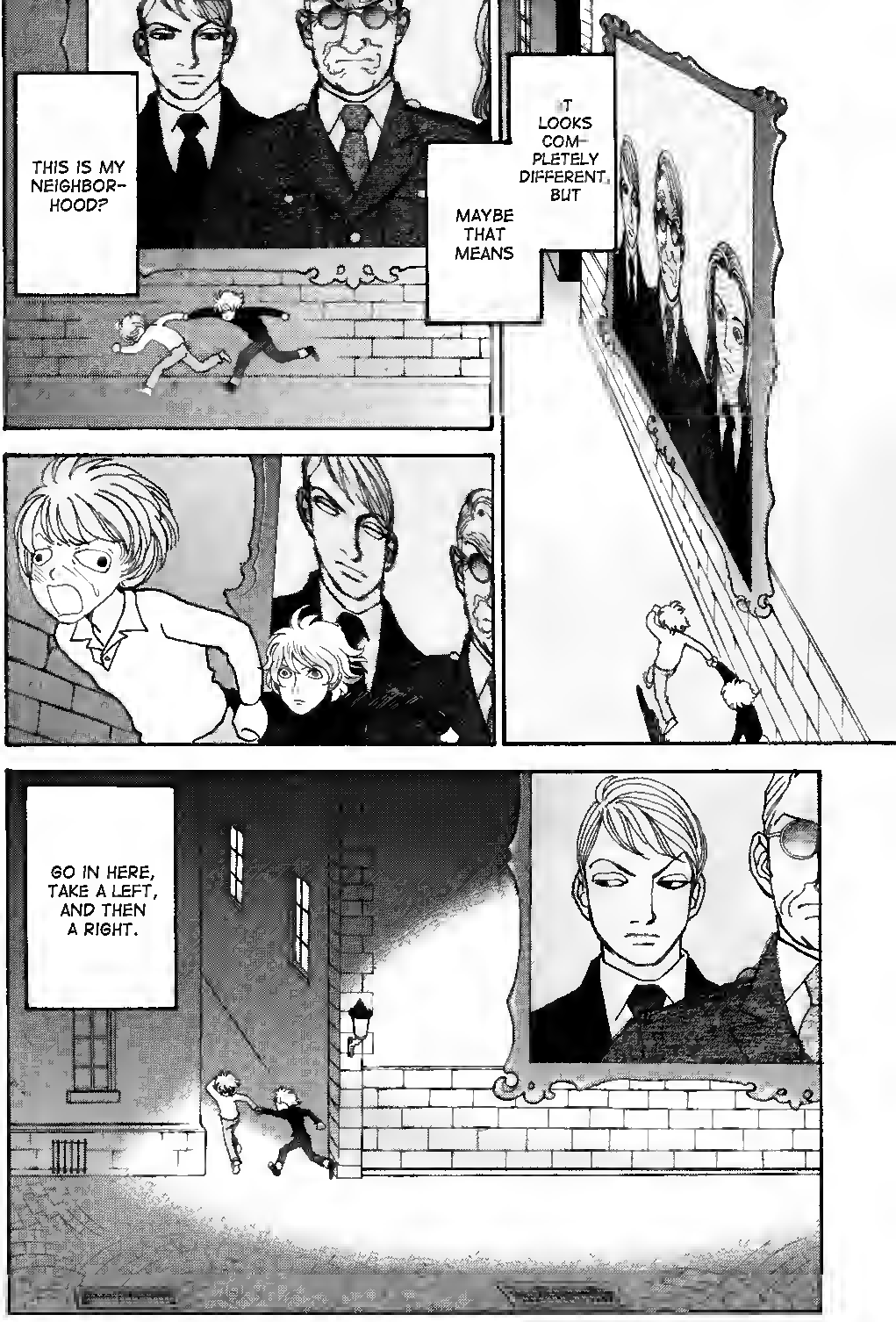

HUH?
AHH!


ス

SFX: SWOOP

GET HIM.
THIS ONE IS AN ENEMY...

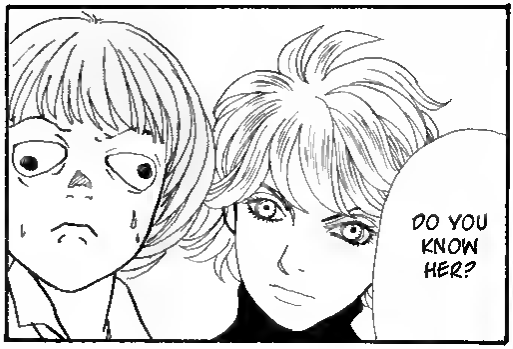
GET THEM!
THEY'RE RUNNING AWAY!
RUN!!
URGH! THEY'RE COMING OUT FROM EVERY-WHERE.
MORE AND MORE OF THEM!
I RE-COGNIZE
THIS CORNER.

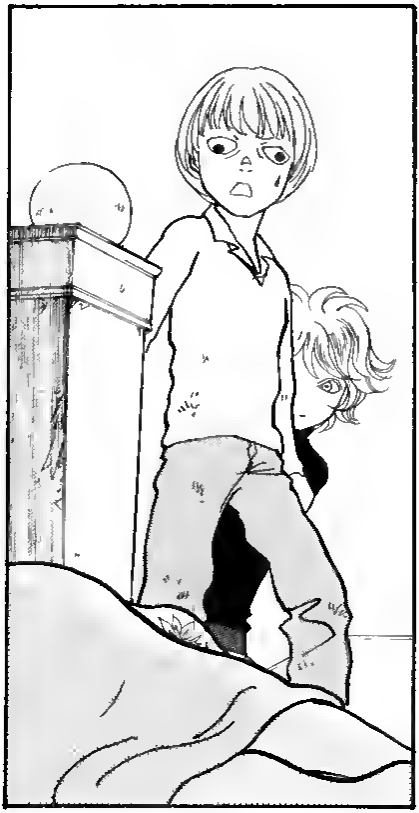

THIS IS MY NEIGHBOR-HOOD?
MAYBE THAT MEANS
IT LOOKS COM-PLETELY DIFFERENT, BUT
GO IN HERE, TAKE A LEFT, AND THEN A RIGHT.

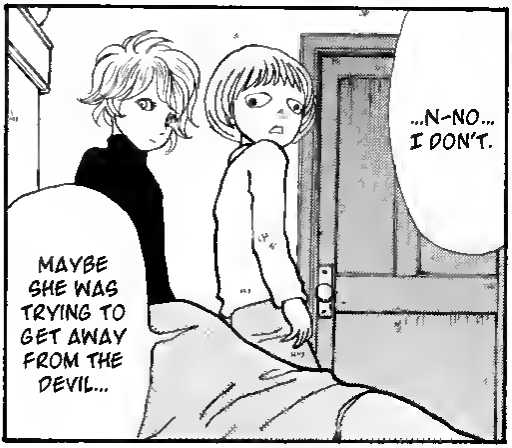
THERE IT IS.
AH.
THEY WENT THAT WAY!
SFX: STOMP STOMP STOMP

THIS IS_ YOUR HOUSE?
YEAH
I THINK...
WHY'S IT SO BROKEN-OOWN..?
...?

I LIVED WITH MY F-FATHER.
M-MY PLACE WAS U-UPSTAIRS. T-THIS WAY.
SFX UGH
YOU SHOULD CHECK YOUR ROOM TO MAKE SURE.
I-I-I KNOW.

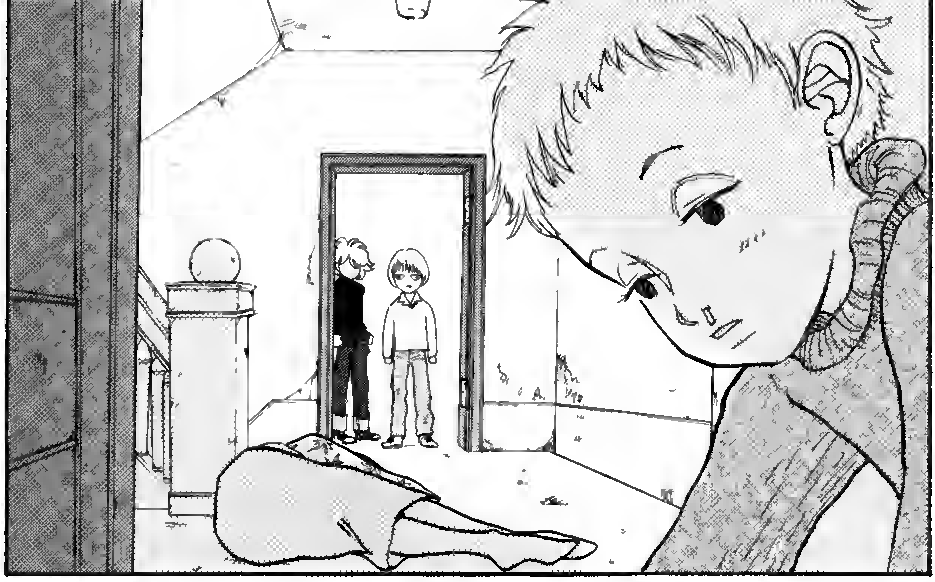

DO YOU KNOW HER?

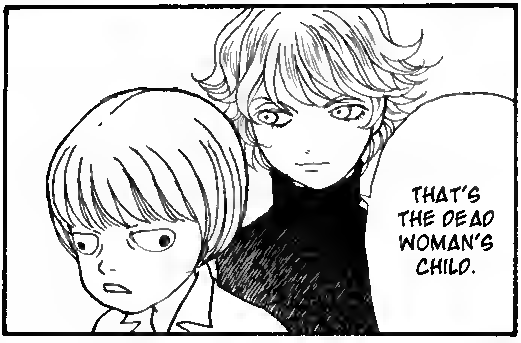


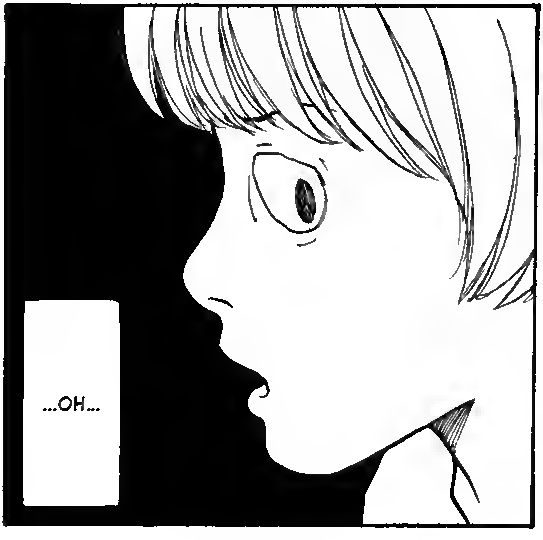

...N-NO... I DON'T.
MAYBE SHE WAS TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM THE DEVIL...

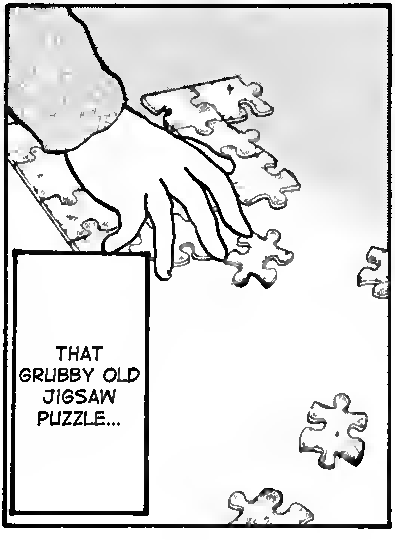
SFX SQUEAK
SFX CLICK

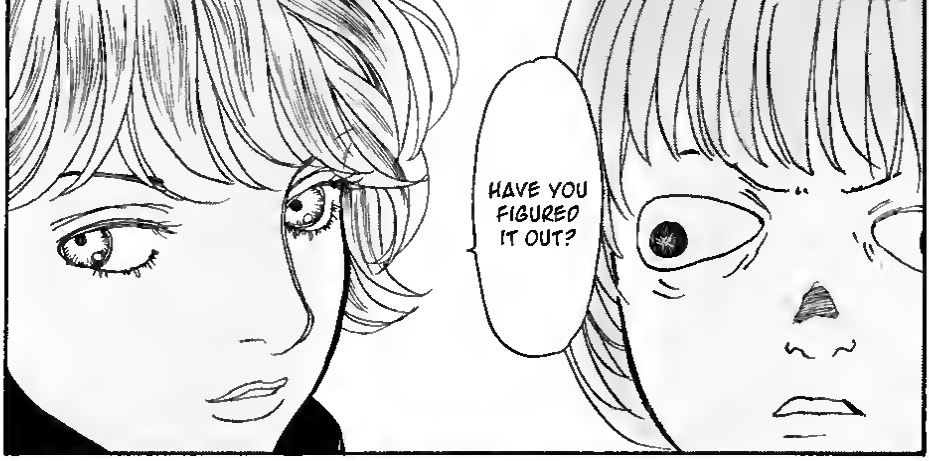
WHY IS IT SO OLD?
BUT...
IT DEFINITELY LOOKS LIKE MY PLACE.
B




THAT'S THE DEAD WOMAN'S CHILD.


...OH...

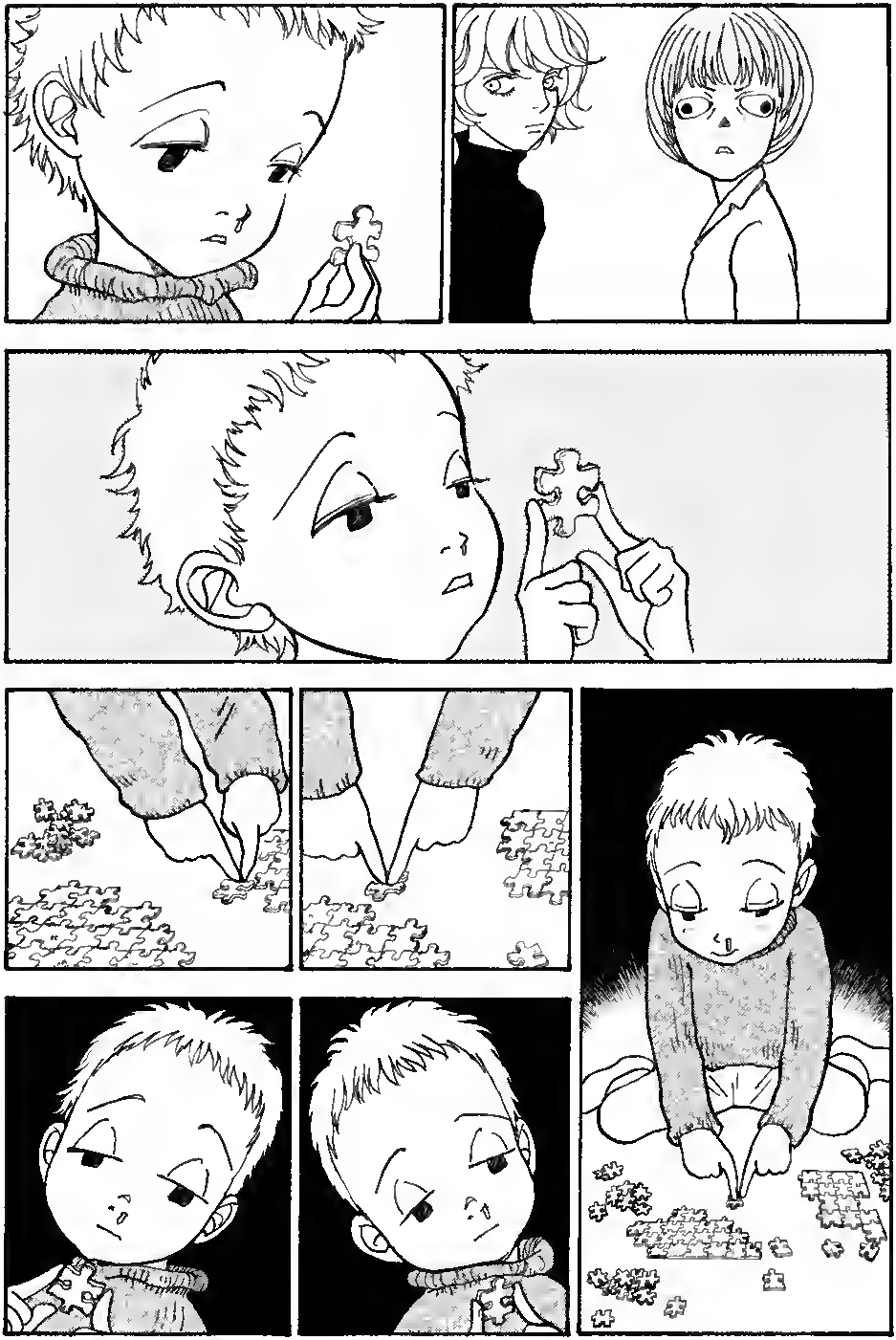

THAT GRUBBY OLD JIGSAW PUZZLE...

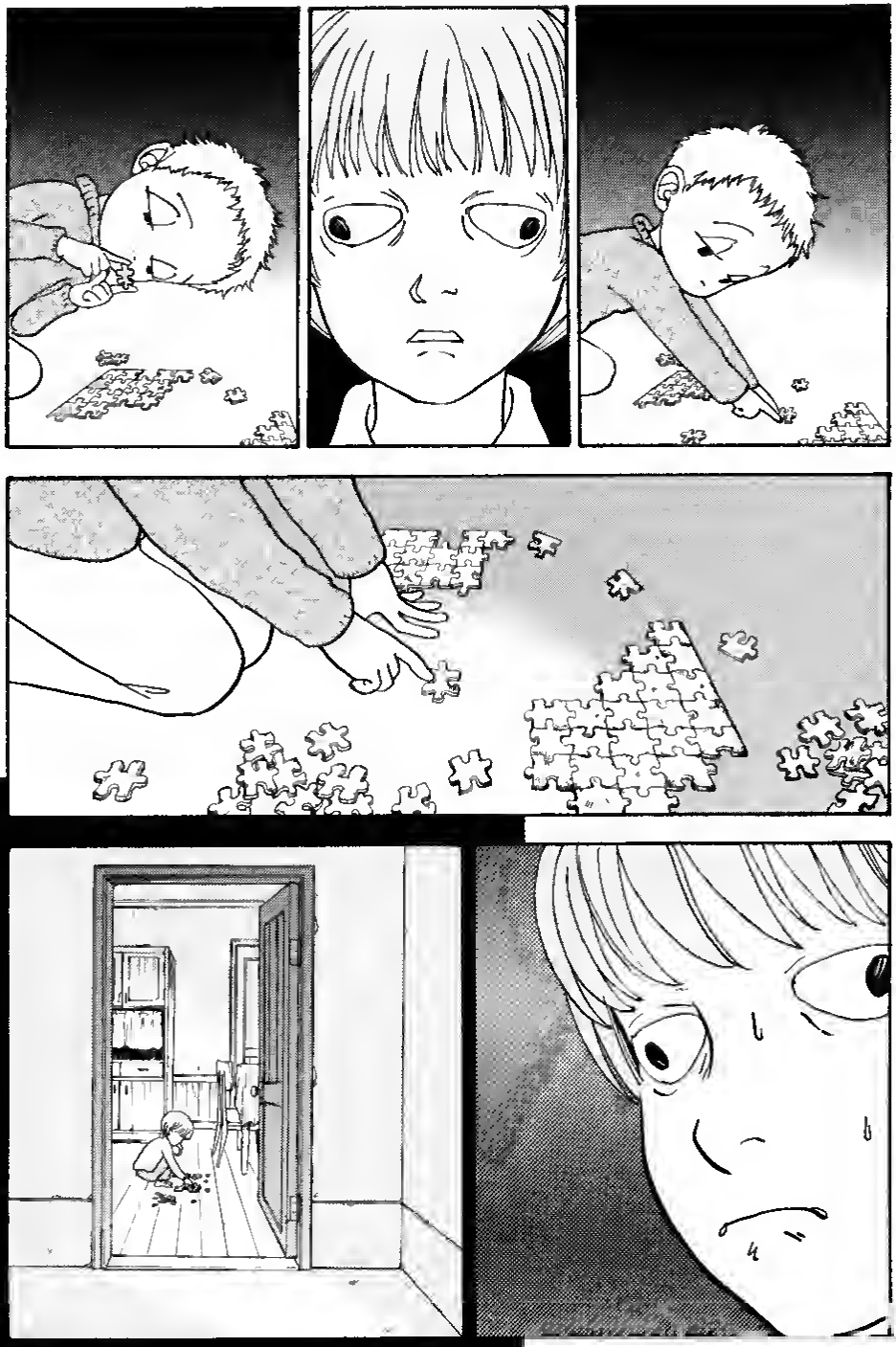

HAVE YOU FIGURED IT OUT?

THIS IS
YOUR CITY, A FEW DECADES IN THE FUTURE.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, TRY TO FIX IT.
THIS FUTURE..
SUCKS...
T-THIS...
I C-CAN'T D-DO ANY-THING LIKE THAT.
ONLY BECAUSE YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN.
IF YOU C-COULD DO ANYTHING JUST BY B-BELIEVING YOU C-COULD DO IT, LIFE WOULD BE EASY!
EVERYTHING STARTS WITH BELIEVING YOU CAN DO SOMETHING.
YOU'RE RIGHT..
THERE'D BE NO LIMITS ON WHAT YOU COULD DO.
BUT,

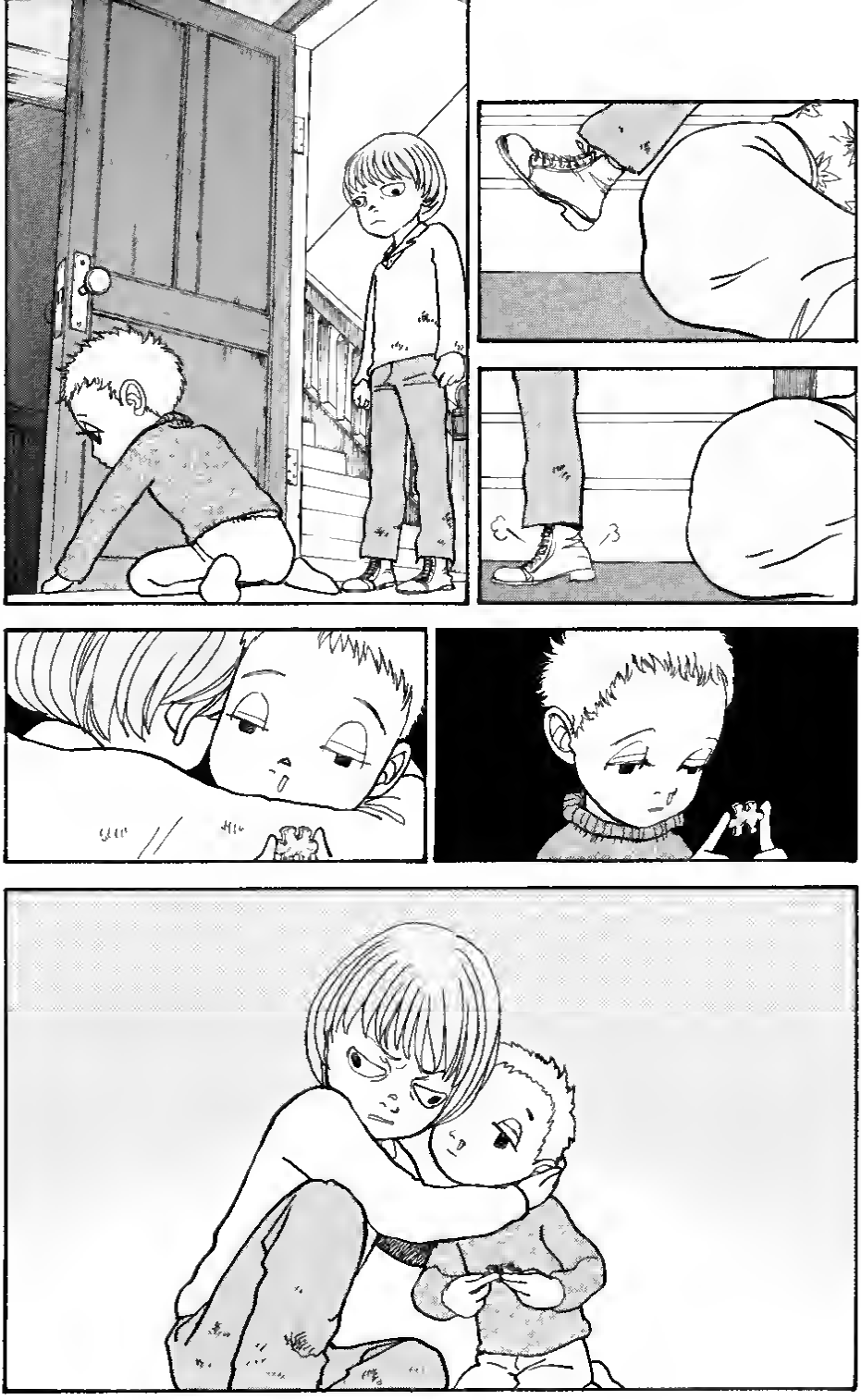
THE FUTURE IS ONLY ONE OUT OF A COUNTLESS NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES, WHICH FOLLOW FROM THE MYRIAD CHOICES PEOPLE MAKE.
ANY LITTLE THING YOU DO HAS THE POTENTIAL TO AFFECT THE FUTURE.
REALLY?
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE YOU CAN DO SOMETHING IN THE FIRST PLACE, YOUR CHANCE OF SUCCESS IS ZERO.
B-BUT. YOU C-CAN'T CHANGE THE F-FUTURE.

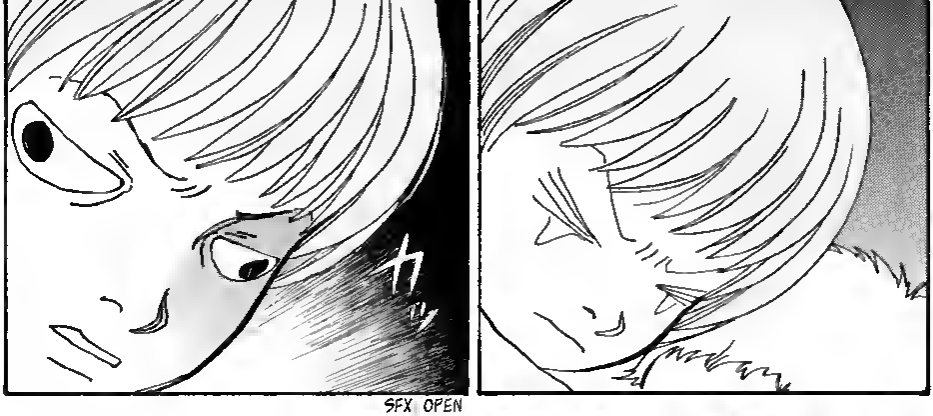




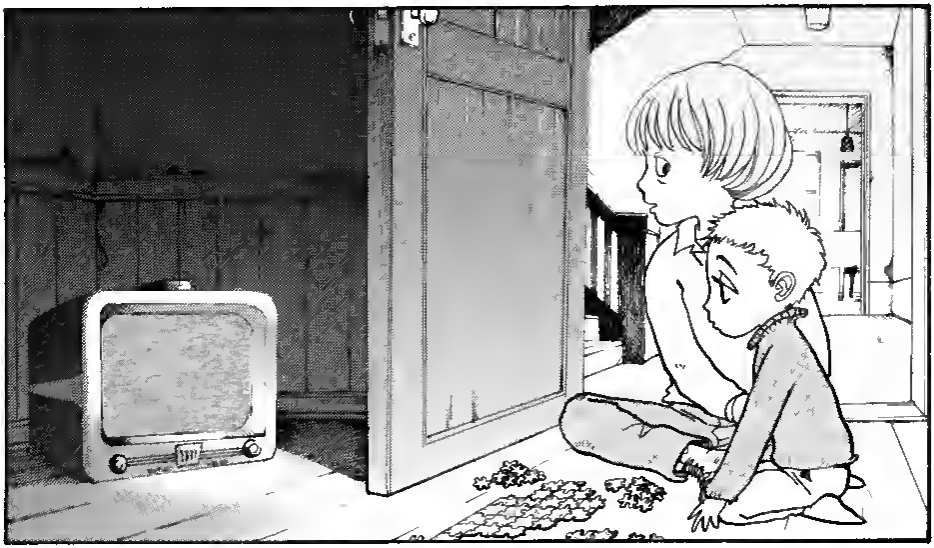
SFX: STOMP STOMP STOMP
C-CHANGING THE F-FUTURE STILL SOUNDS IMPOSSIBLE BUT,
HOW... DO I DO IT?

EVER S-SINCE I WAS BORN
NOBODY'S EVER THOUGHT I C-COULD DO ANYTHING.
SO,
AH.
THAT'S THIS KID'S LIFE NOW TOO.
HE'S ALSO GOING TO GIVE UP ON THAT PUZZLE, ISN'T HE?

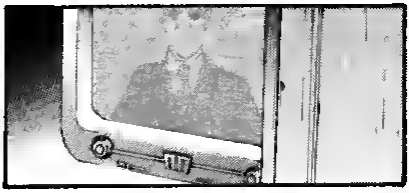


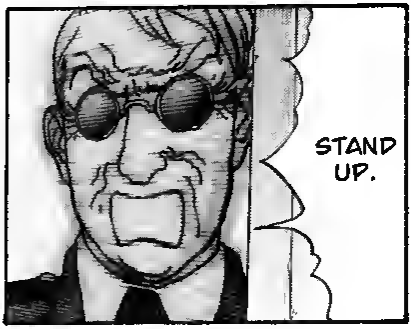


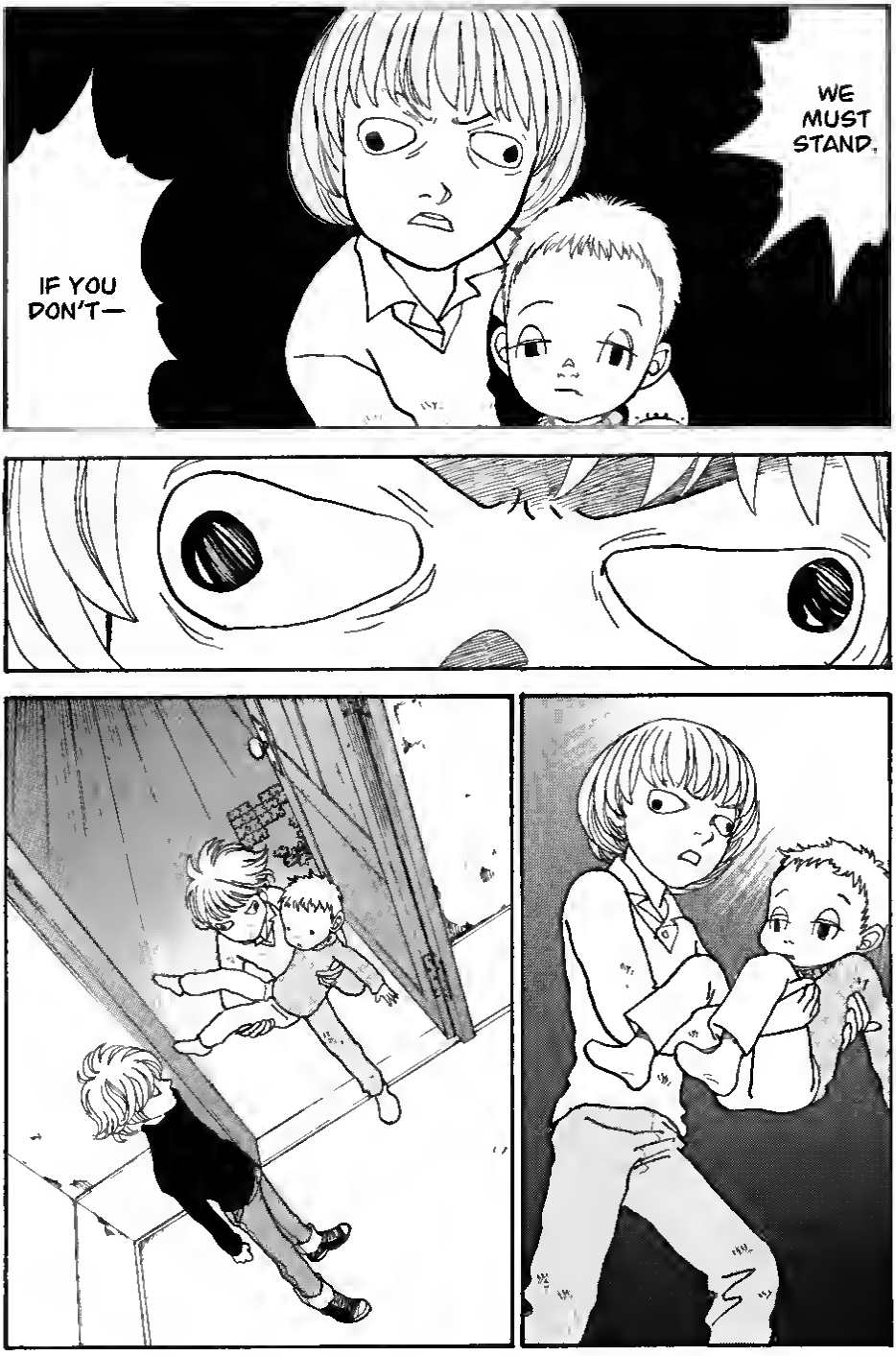
SFX: OPEN

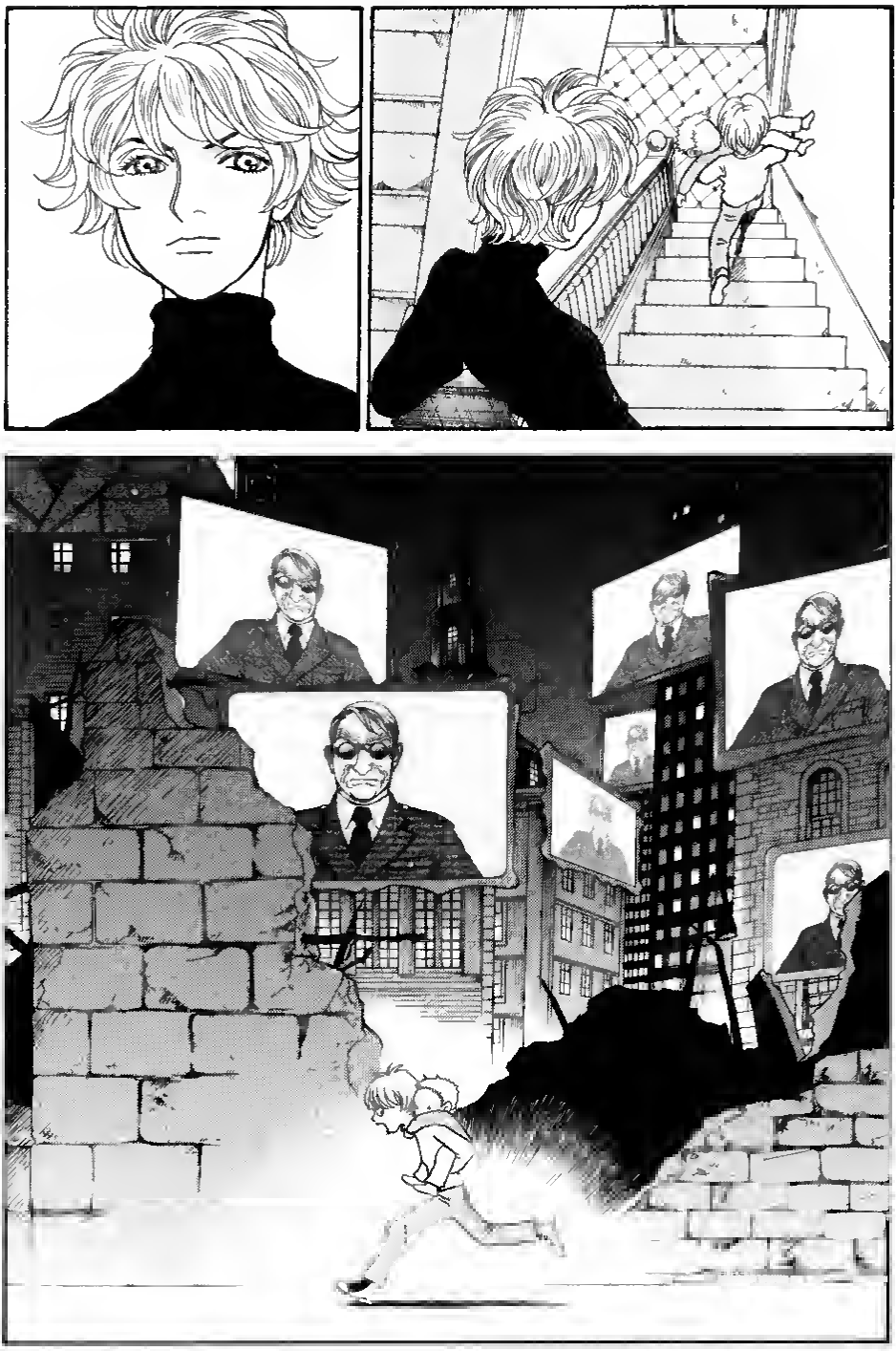


DON'T SPARE THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE CHILDREN.
STAND UP!
STAND AGAINST THE ENEMY.

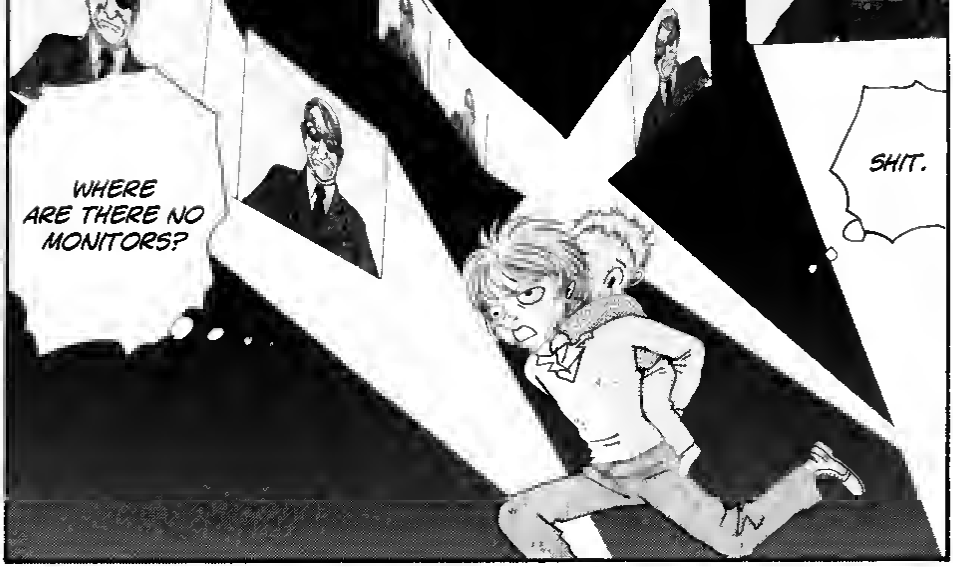


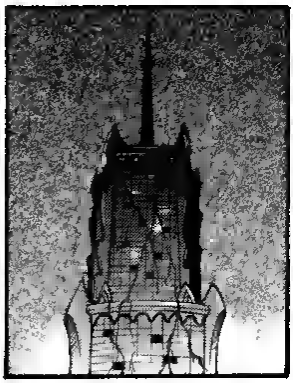

STAND UP.

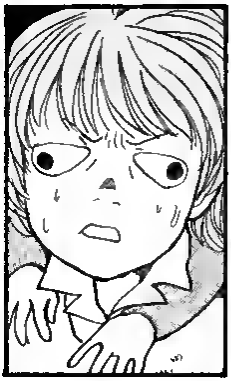

WE MUST STAND.
IF YOU DON'T—

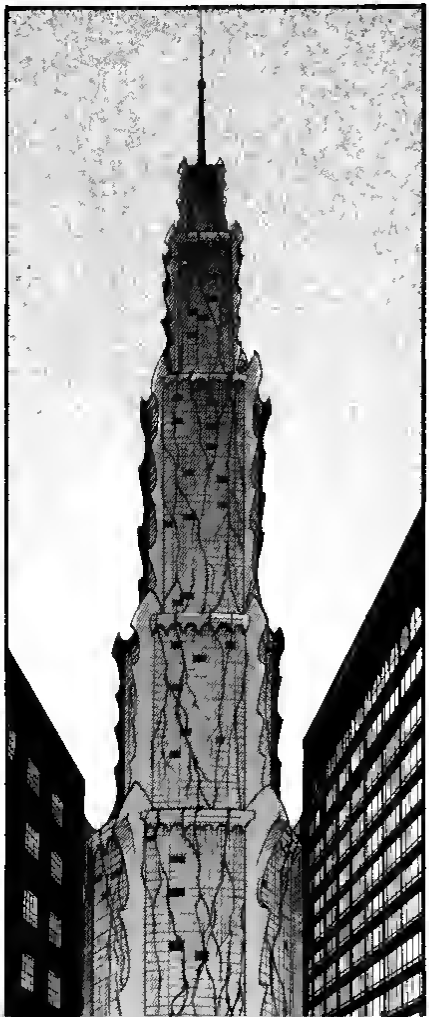


SFX PANT PANT PANT

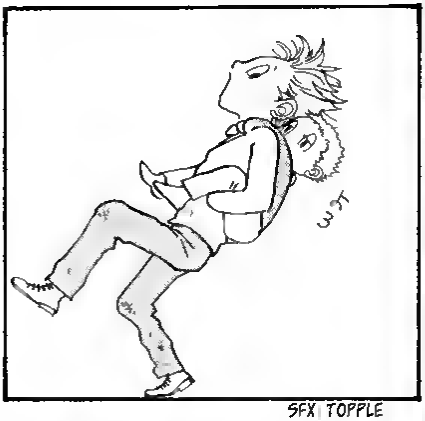

WHERE ARE THERE NO MONITORS?
SHIT.



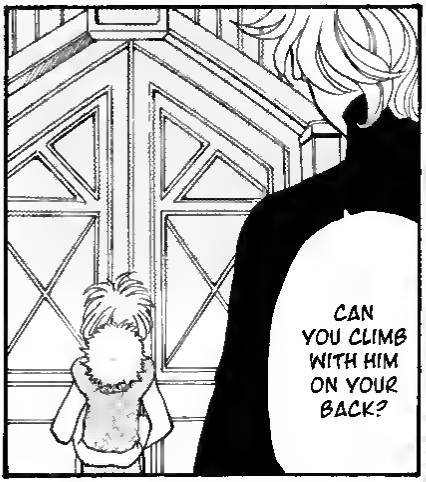




THERE.
THERE AREN'T ANY ON THAT ROOF YET!

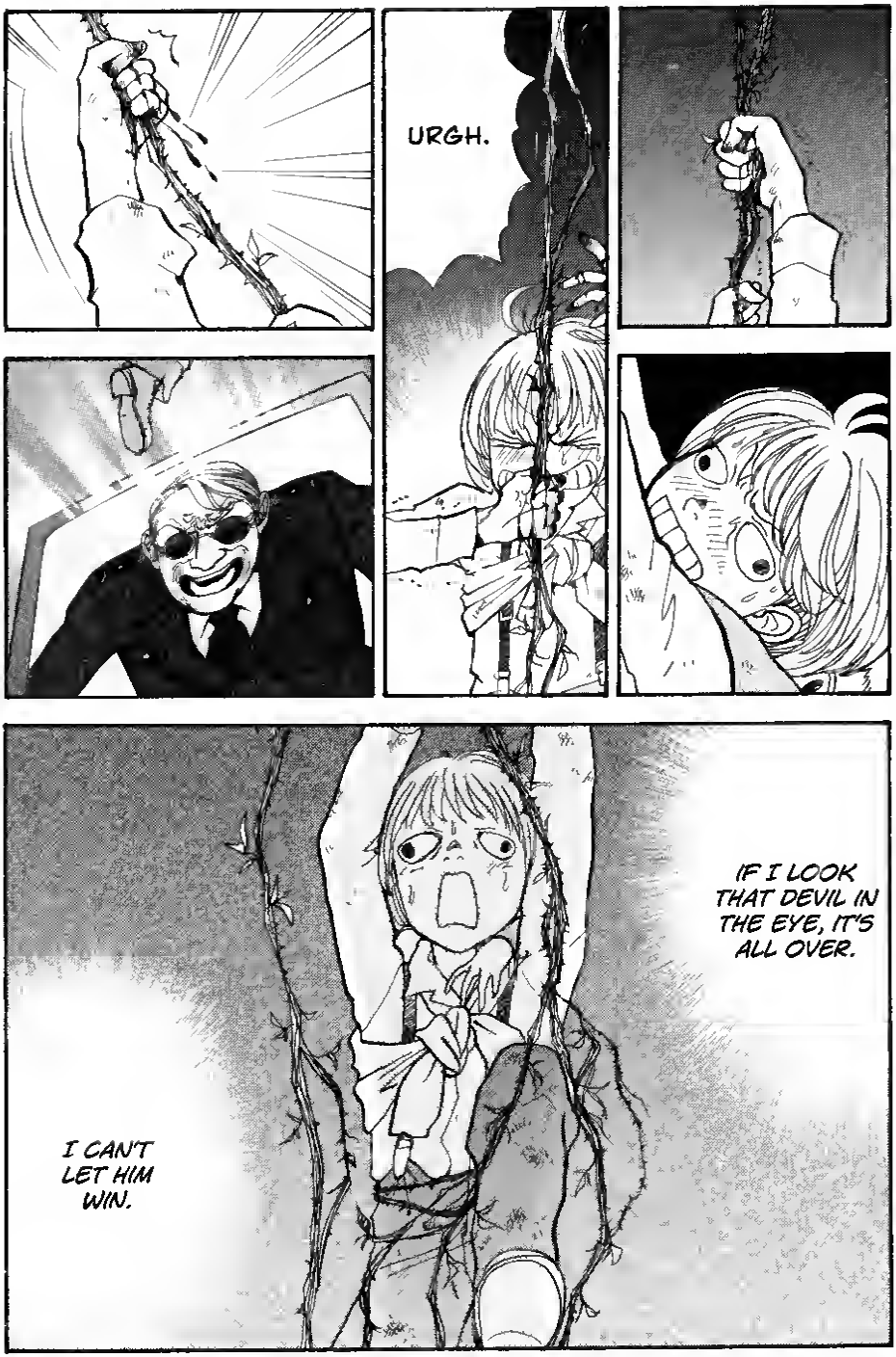


SFX | TOPPLE

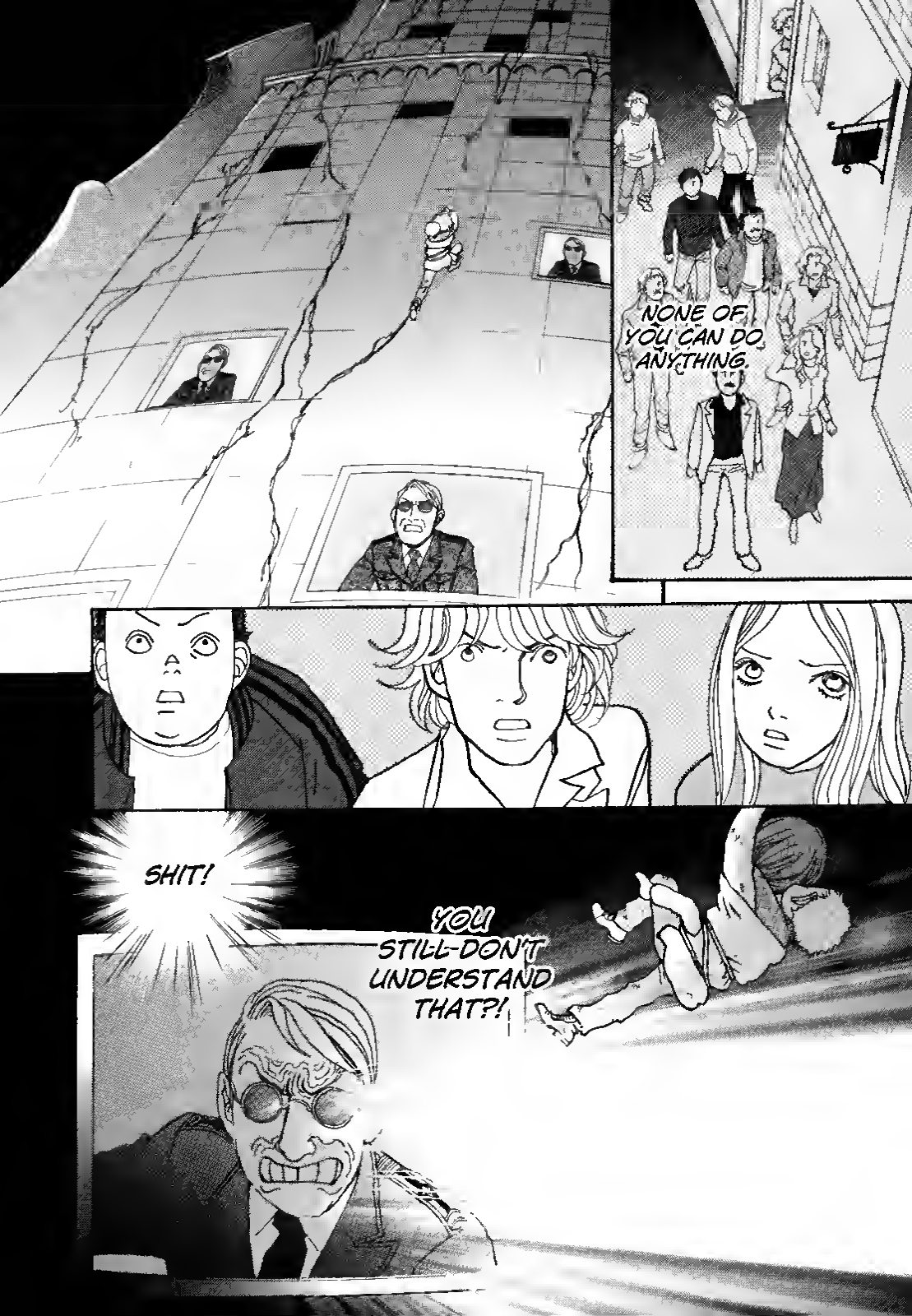


Y-YEAH, I CAN.
IF I... D-DON'T THINK I CAN, THEN I HAVE Z-ZERO CHANCE OF D-DOING IT, DON'T I.
I-ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU SAID?
HOLD ON TIGHT.

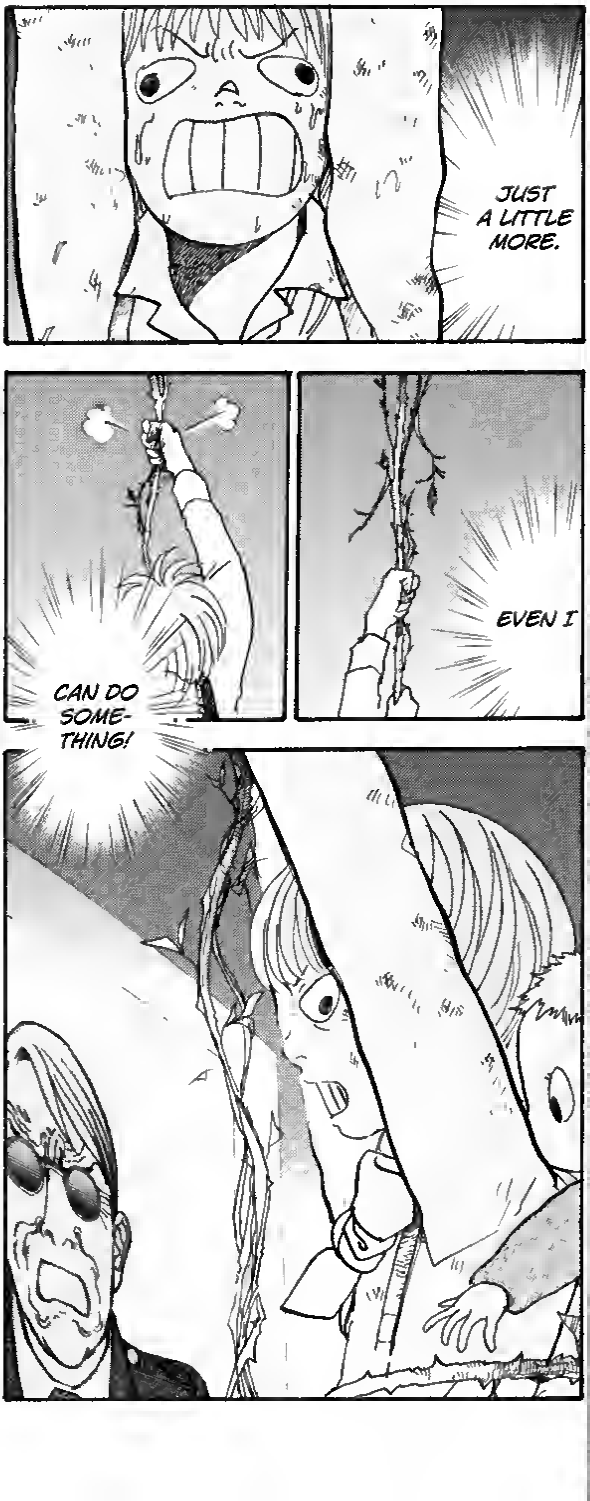
SFX: FLASH
SFX: PHEW
SFX
LEAP
SFX: ZAP

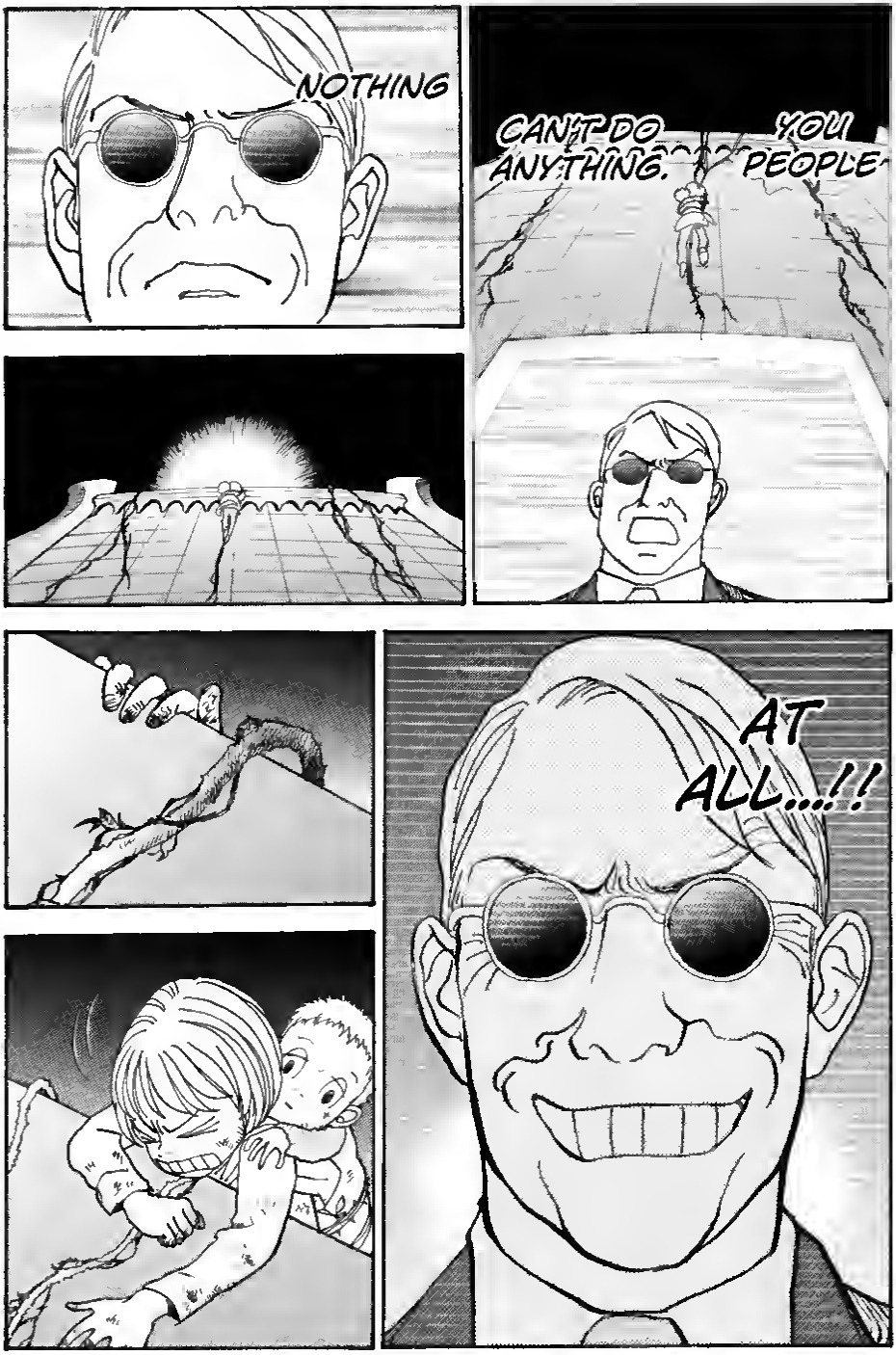

URGH.
IF I LOOK THAT DEVIL IN THE EYE, IT'S ALL OVER.
I CAN'T LET HIM WIN.

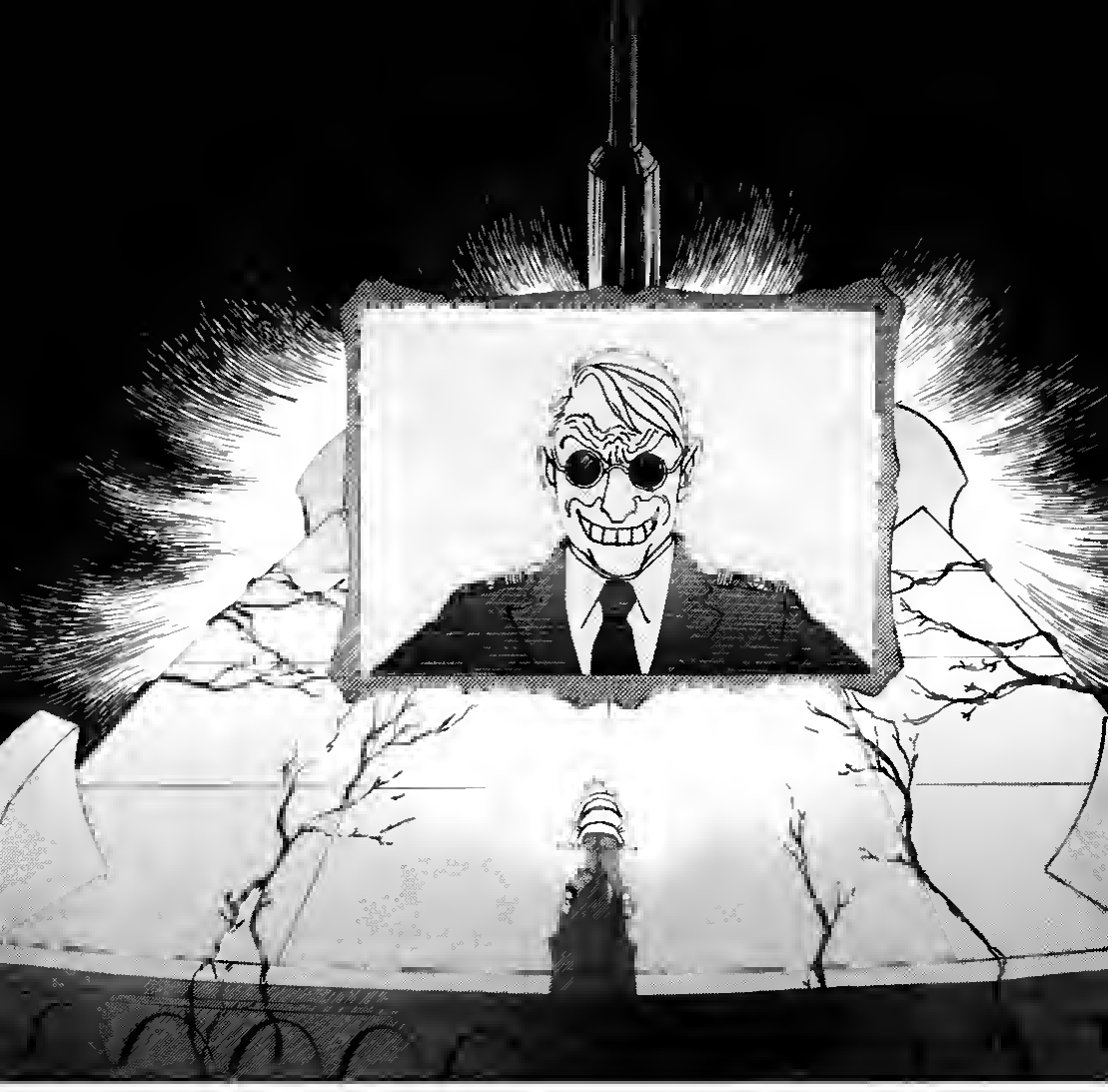
SHIT!
SHIT! WHO IS THIS KID?!
TO MAKE THESE PEOPLE DISCOURAGED AND POWERLESS?
HOW MANY DECADES HAS IT TAKEN ME

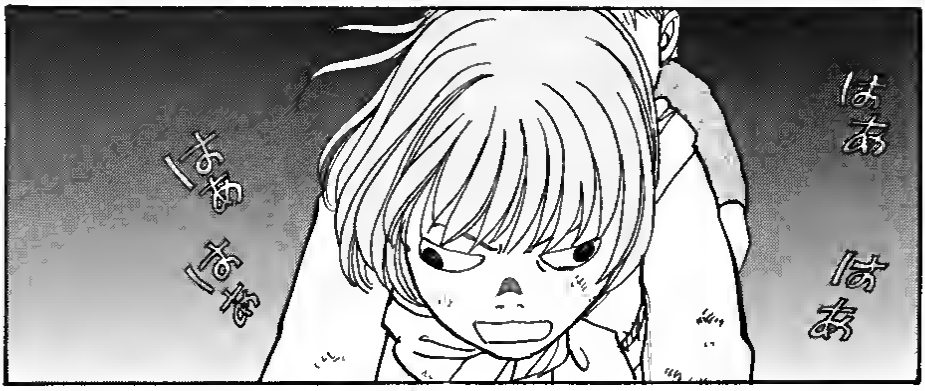

NONE OF YOU CAN DO ANYTHING.
SHIT!
YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT?!

IS IN TROUBLE?
THE DEVIL...
IS THIS BOY?!
WHO THE HELL

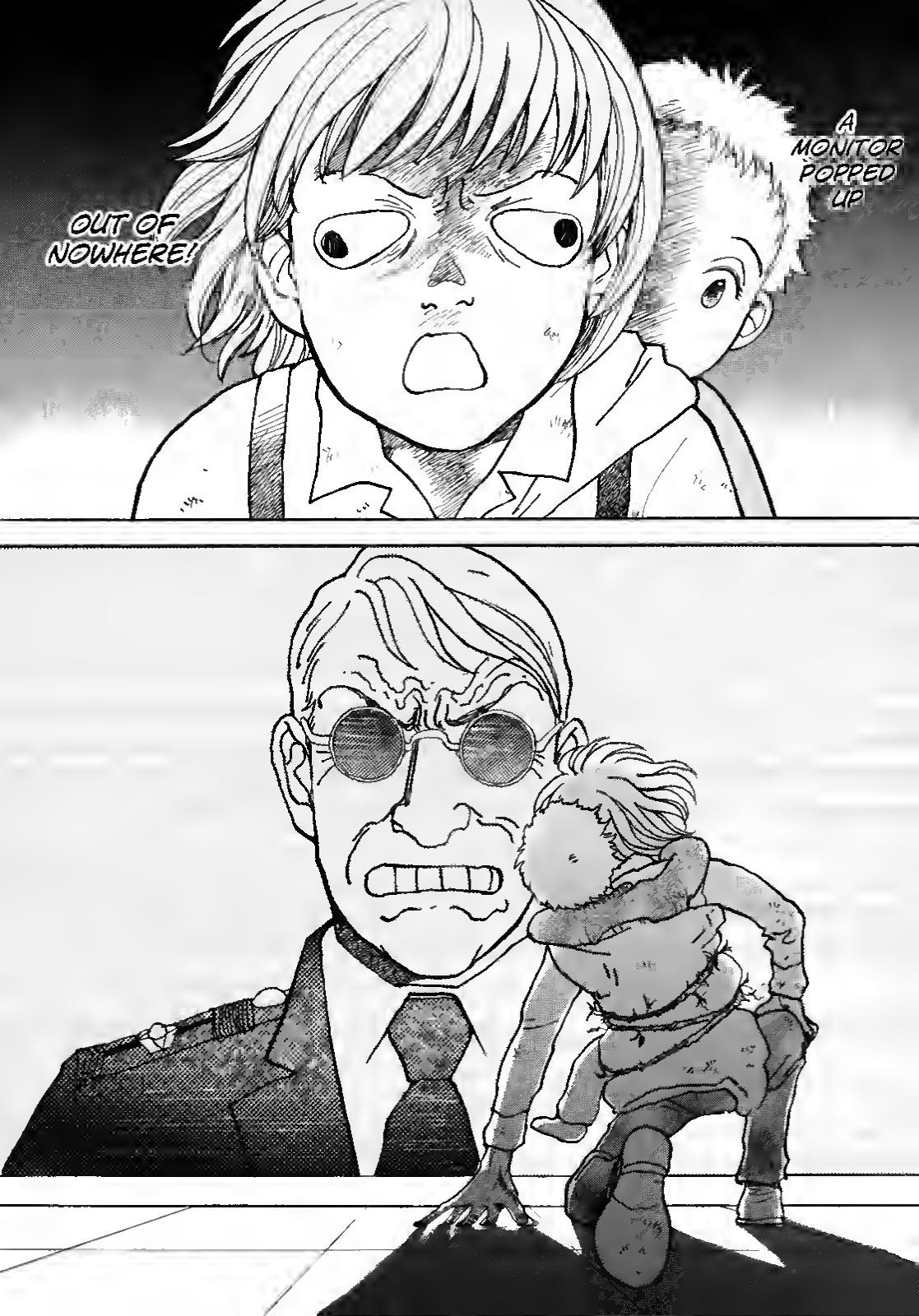

JUST A LITTLE MORE.
EVEN I
CAN DO SOME-THING!


NOTHING
CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
YOU PEOPLE
AT ALL...!!





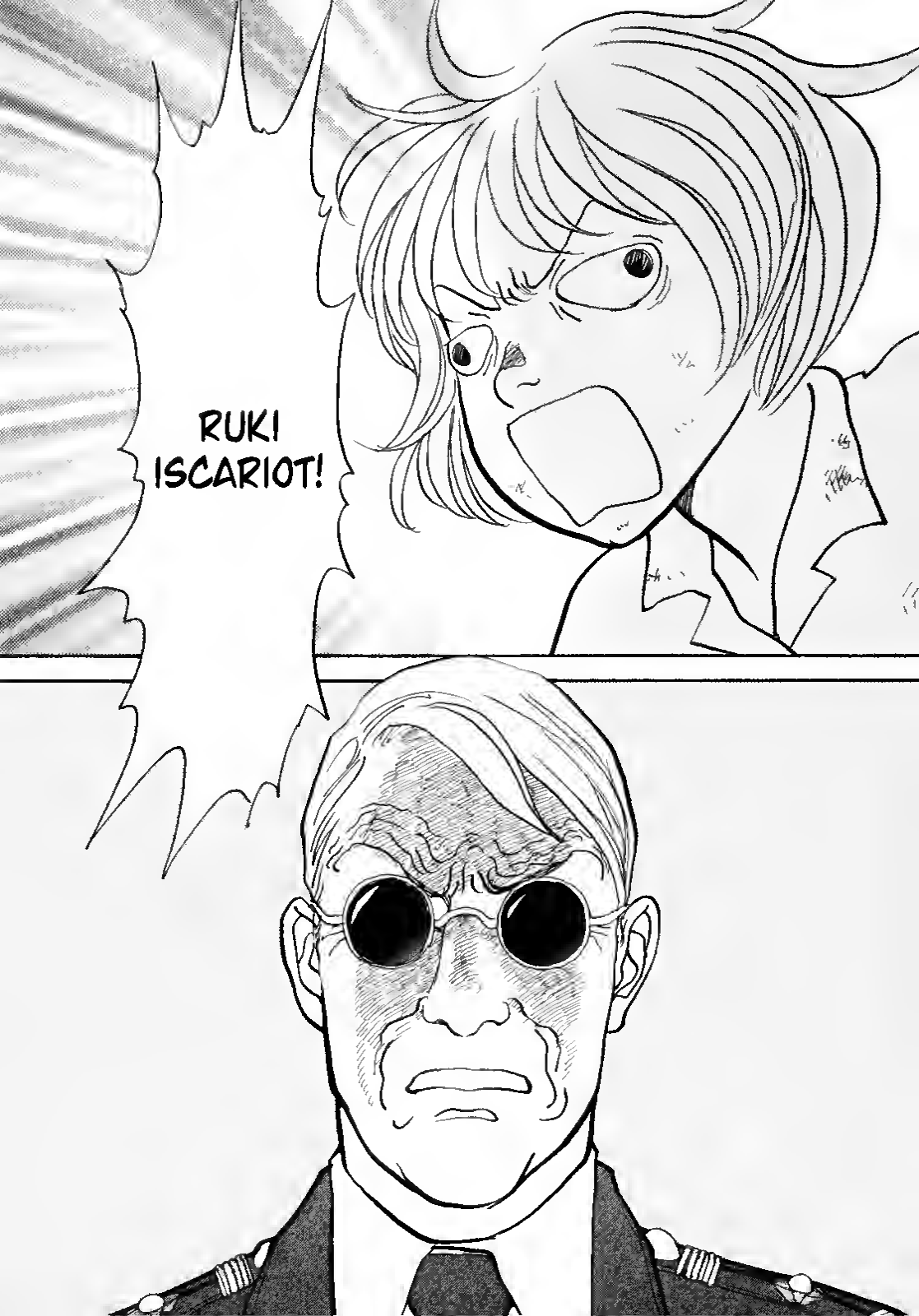
SFX PANT PANT PANT PANT

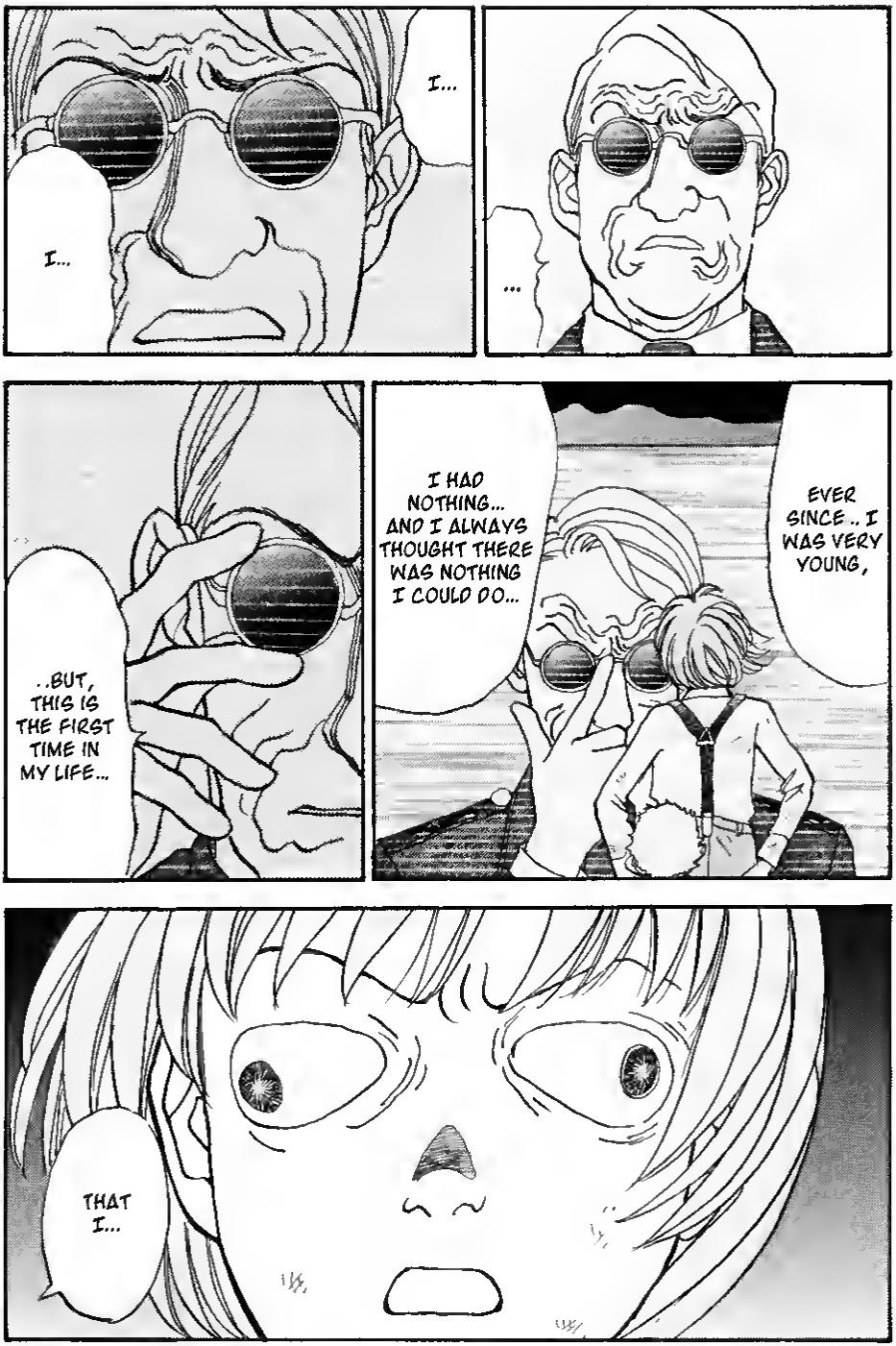

A MONITOR POPPED UP
OUT OF NOWHERE!

SFX
TUG

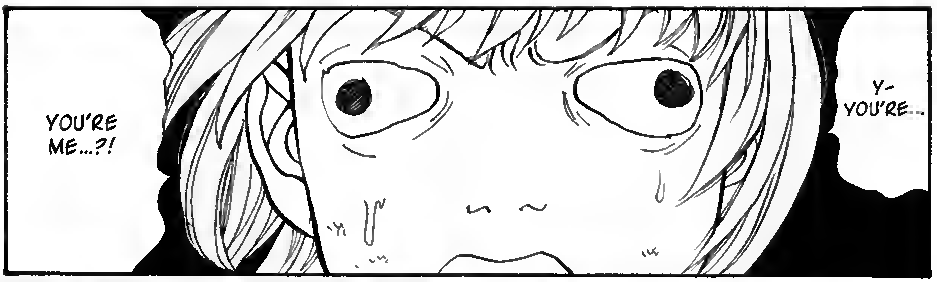
Y-YOU..
YOU, DEVIL.
I-I'M GOING TO D-DIE AND HAVE N-NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT...BUT...
I-I-I'M A USELESS P-PERSON THE L-LOWEST OF THE LOW
I'LL P-PROTECT THIS KID WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT.

THAT MUST BE...
WHY I'M HERE...
BOY.
YOUR NAME!
WHO KNOWS HOW MANY YEARS IN THE FUTURE!

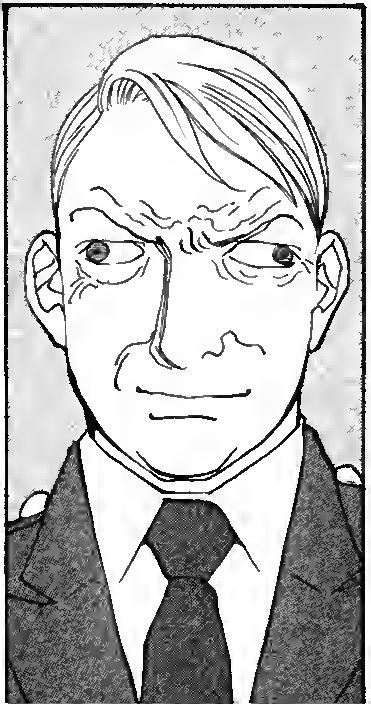

RUKI
ISCARIOT!


I...
I...
...
EVER SINCE .. I WAS VERY YOUNG,
I HAD NOTHING... AND I ALWAYS THOUGHT THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO...
..BUT, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE...
THAT I...

WAS ABLE
TO RESPECT MY
OWN SELF...


Y-
YOU'RE...
YOU'RE
ME...?!

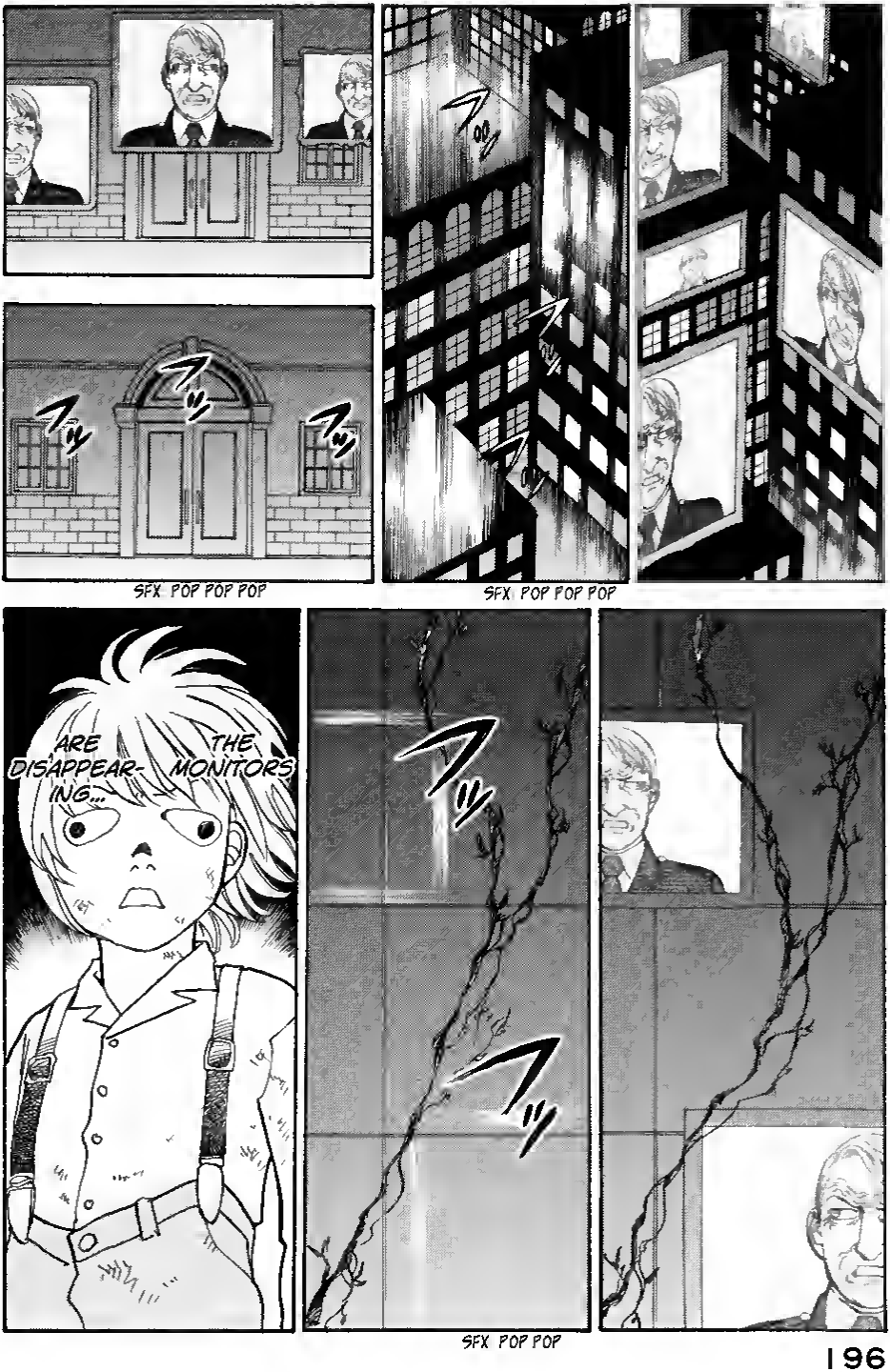
REGARDLESS OF WHAT ANYONE ELSE SAYS, YOU MUST RECOGNIZE YOUR OWN STRENGTHS
RUKI... BELIEVE IN YOURSELF



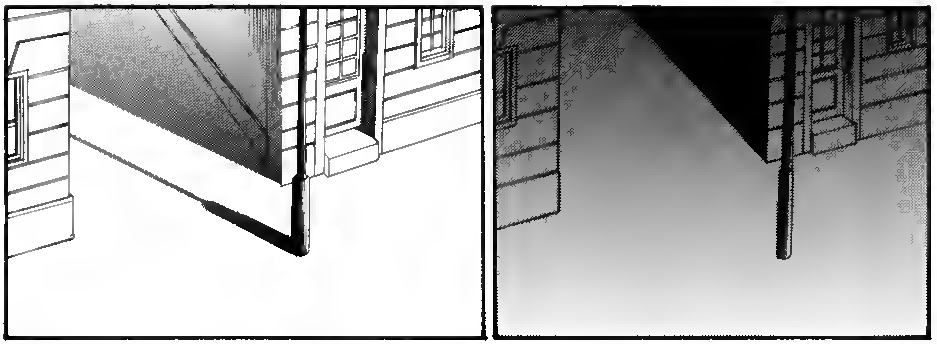
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
AND MOVE FORWARD TO A NEW FUTURE.
IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE FOR ME.

SFX: SQUEEZE
AHHH!

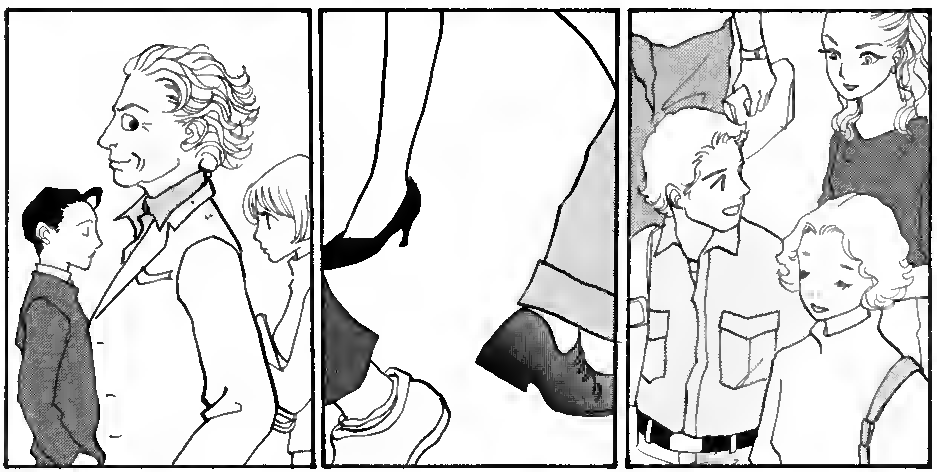
SFX POOF


SFX: POP POP POP
SFX: POP POP POP
THE MONITORS ARE DISAPPEAR-ING...
SFX: POP POP

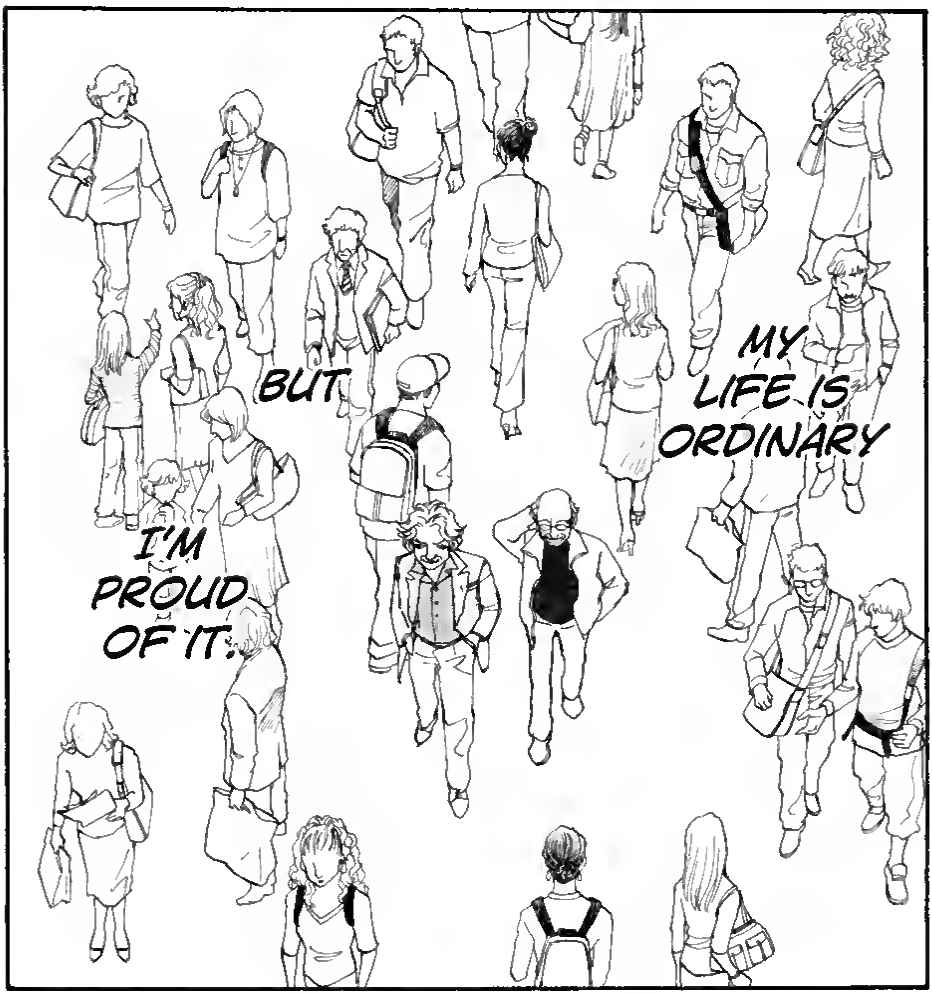
THE FUTURE
IS CHANGING.



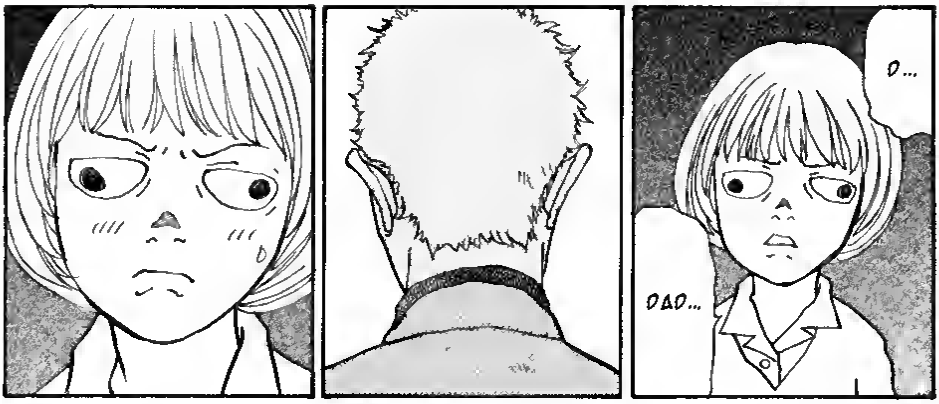
RUKI ISCARIOT.
MY NAME IS

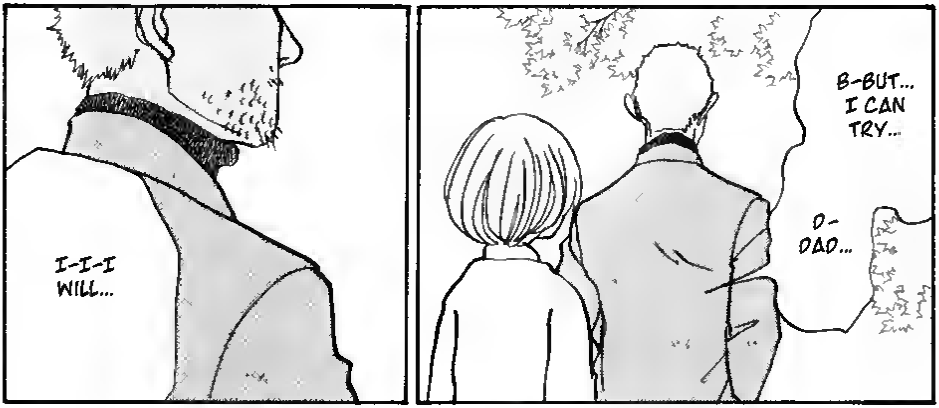


I'M A CARPENTER.


BUT
MY LIFE IS ORDINARY
I'M PROUD OF IT.

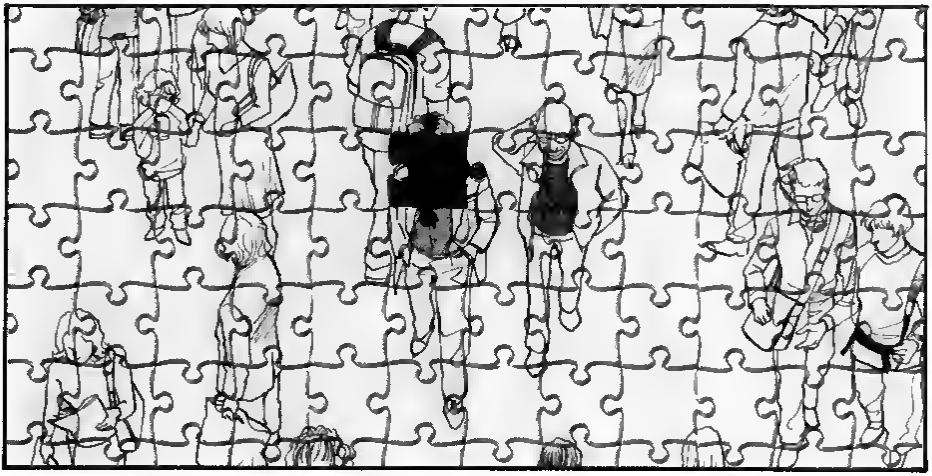
はっ
SFX GASP
SFX TWEE-TWEE-TWEET
ピチチチチ。。

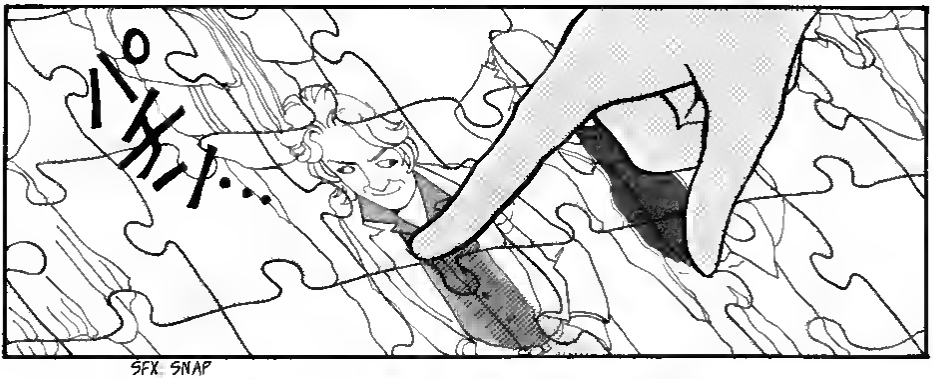

O...
DAD...


I-I-I WILL...
B-BUT... I CAN TRY..
O-DAD...

I-I'LL DO W-WHATEVER I CAN.
I UNDERSTAND NOW...

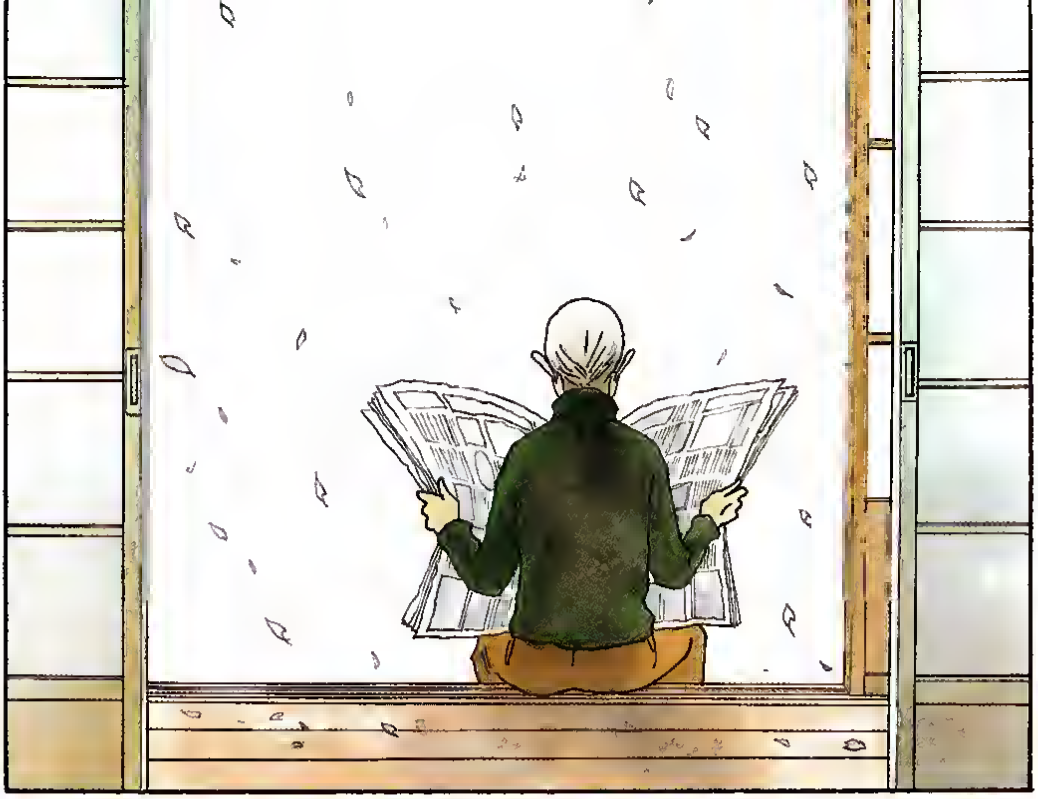
I CAN...

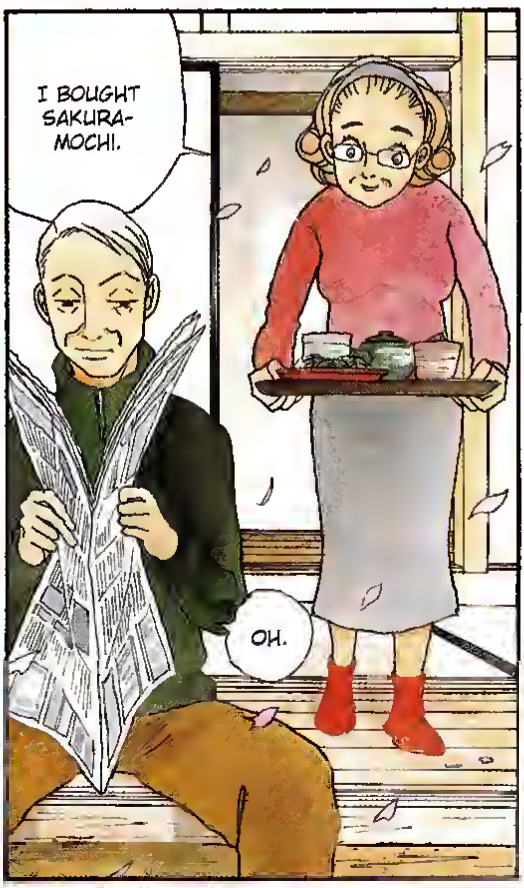




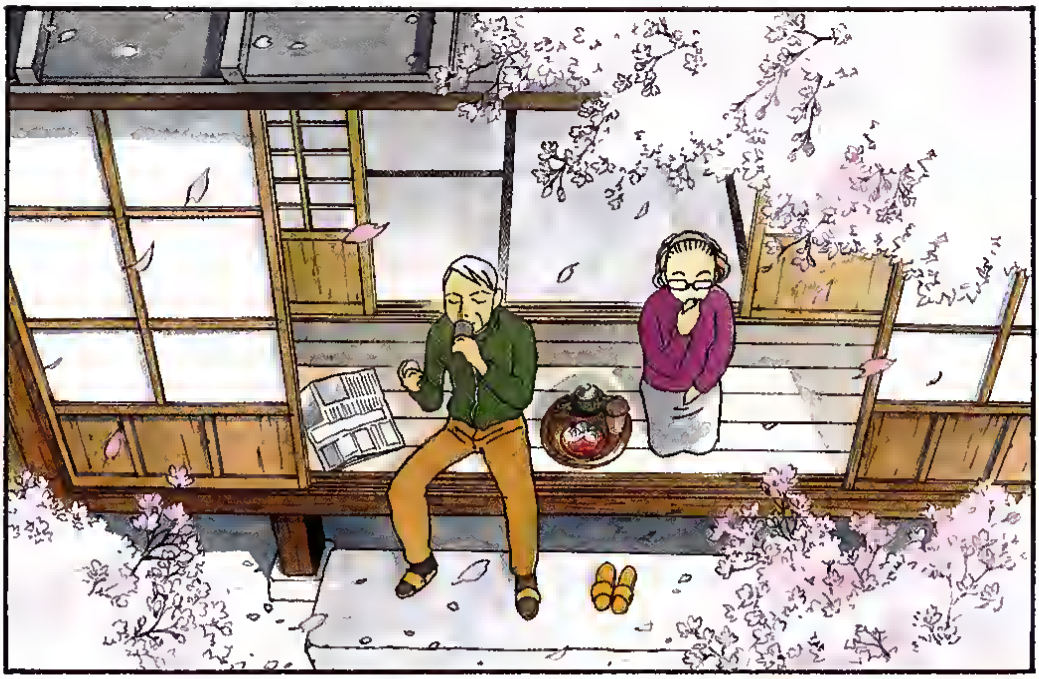
SFX: SNAP

[Chapter 17]
Husband • Kyouhei
Wife • Ruriko

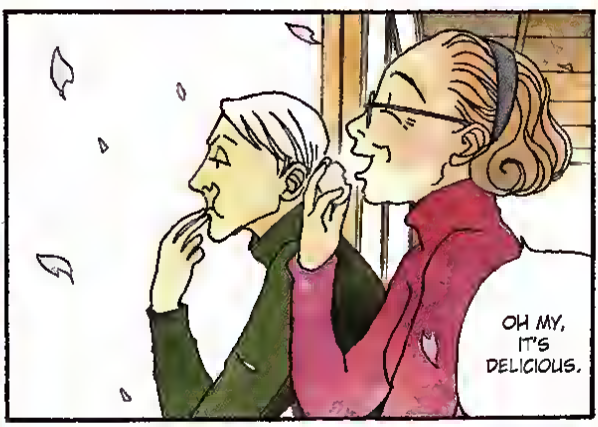


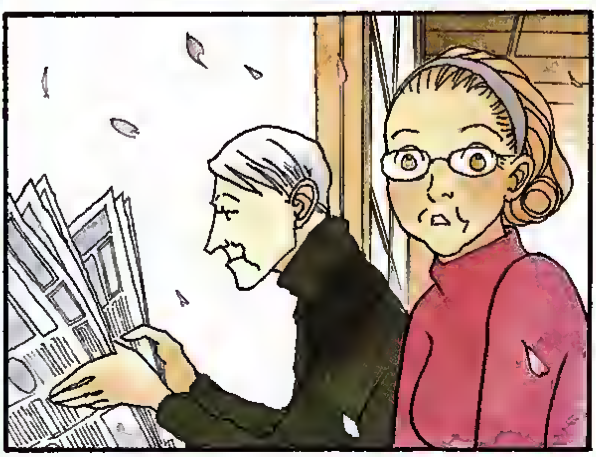


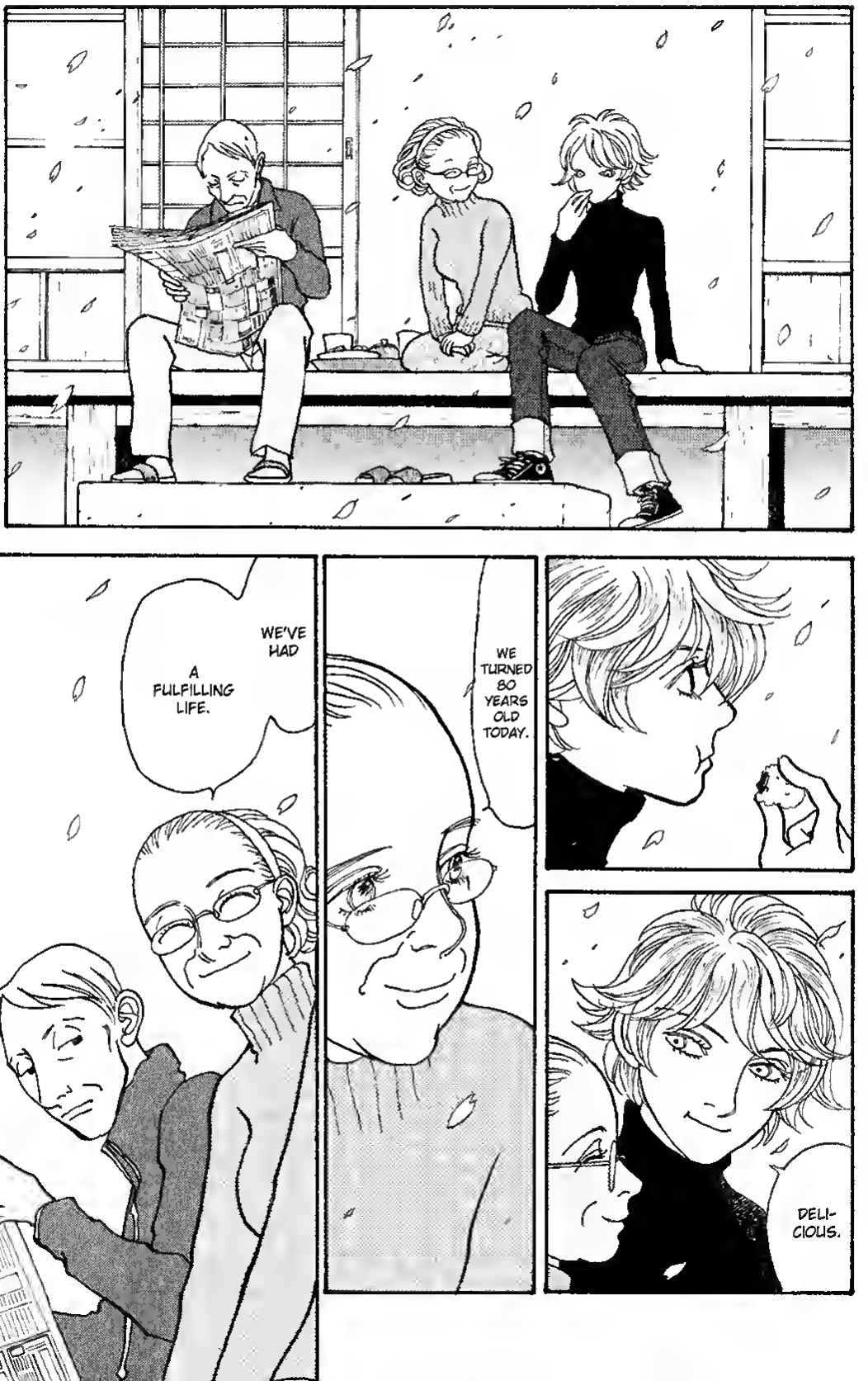
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sakuramochi
It tastes okay. Definitely old people's snack.



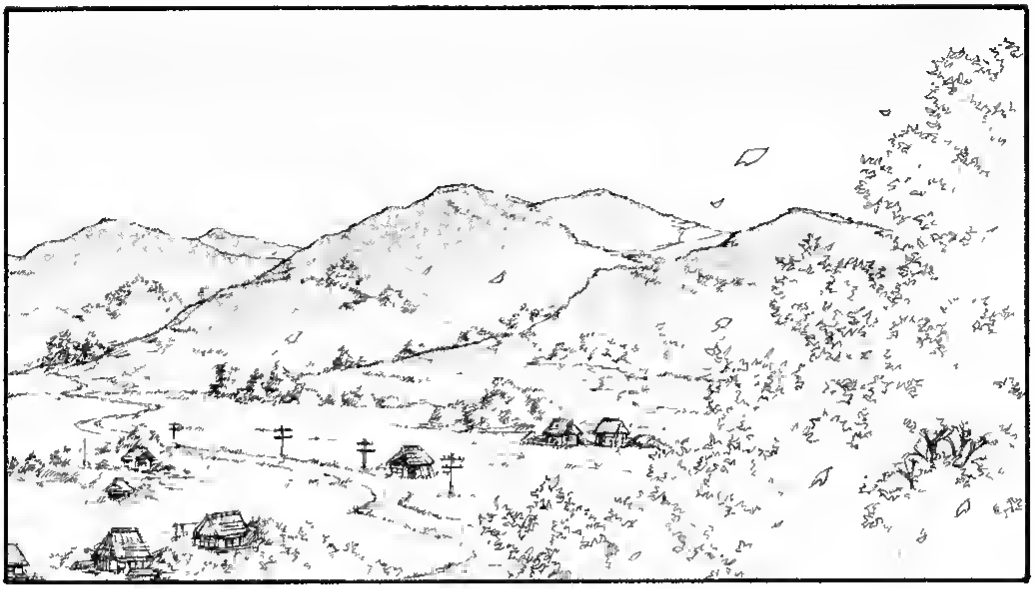
HONEY... HE'S HERE.

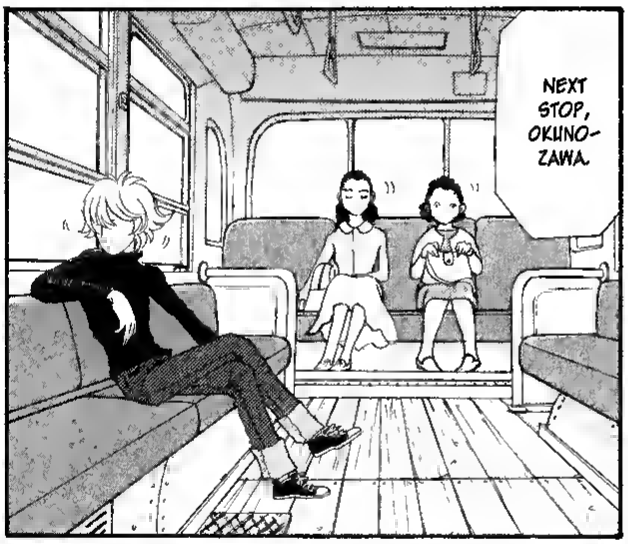

OH MY, IT'S DELICIOUS.



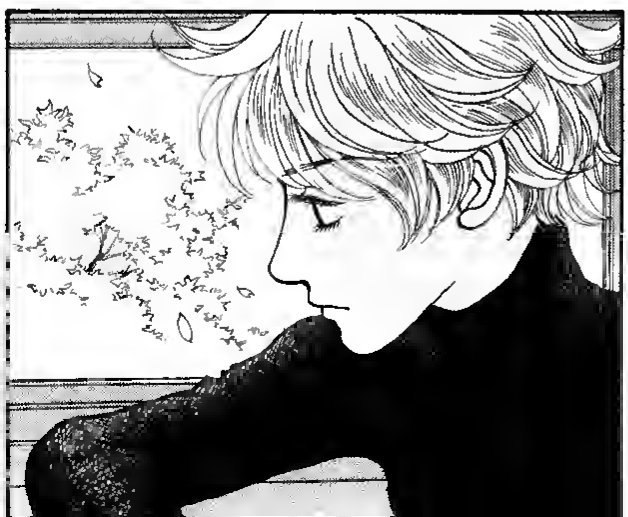

WE'VE HAD A FULFILLING LIFE.
WE TURNED 80 YEARS OLD TODAY.
DELI-CIOUS.

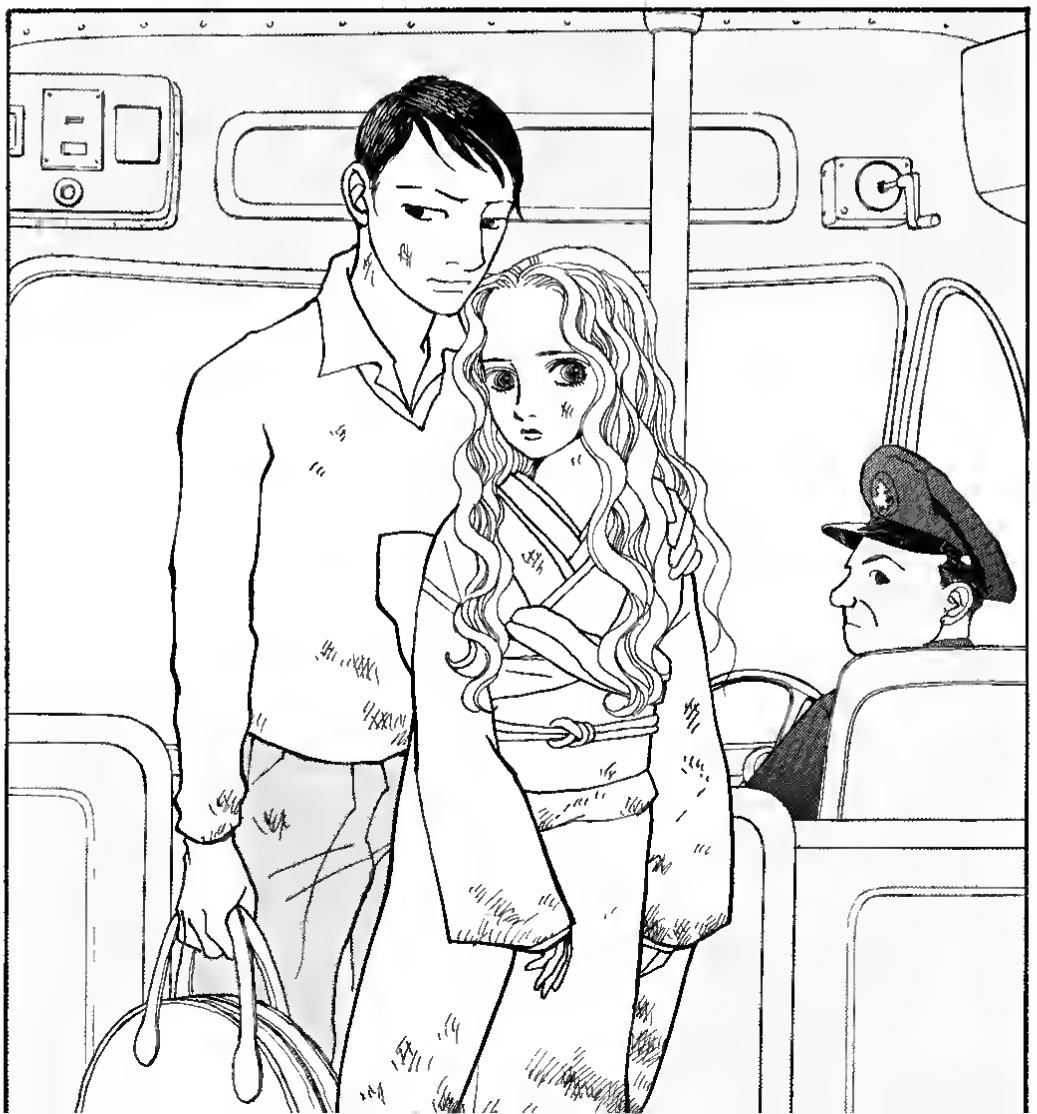
WAS THIS
REALLY WHAT YOU WANTED?

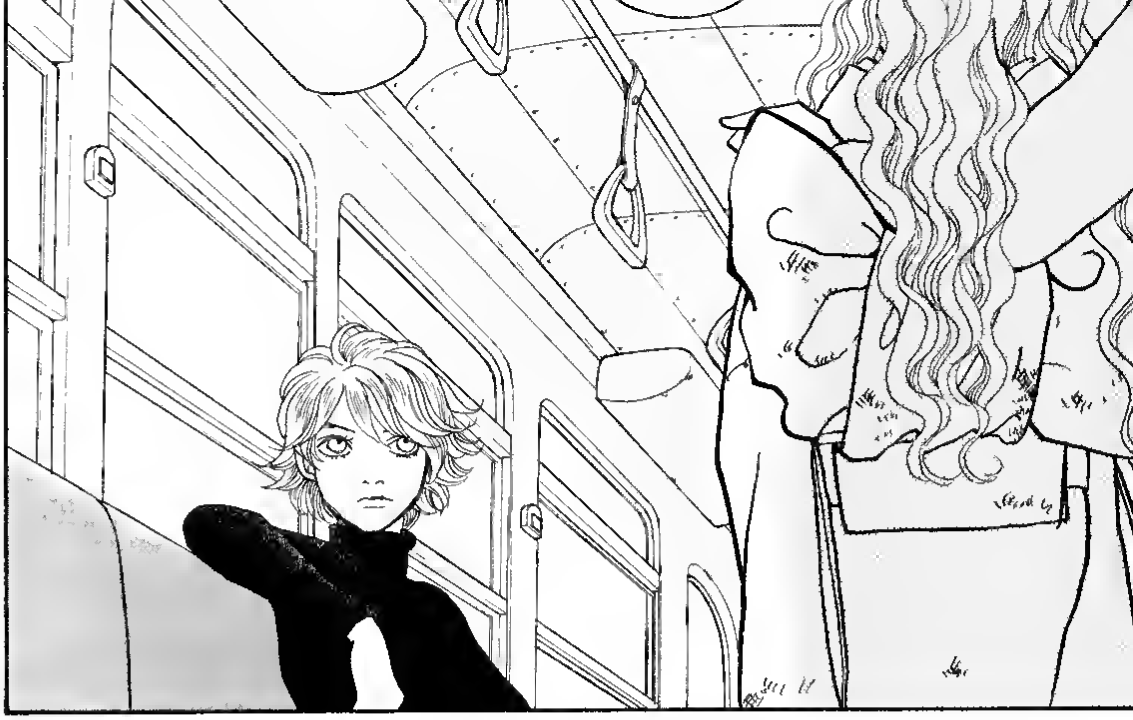


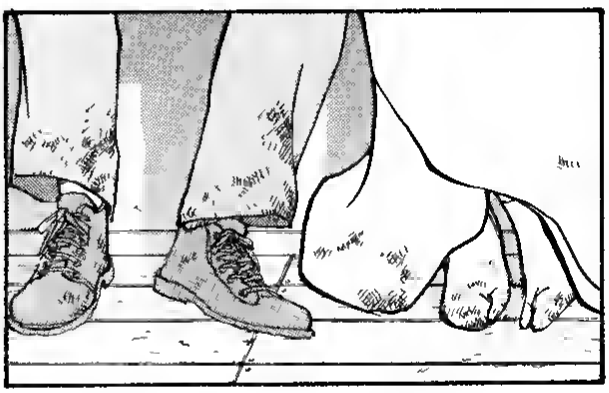

NEXT STOP, OKUNO-ZAWA.

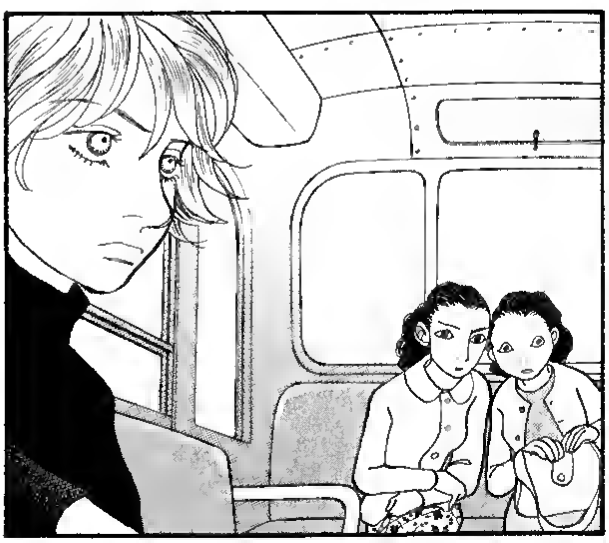
brrr
rattle
rattle
rattle

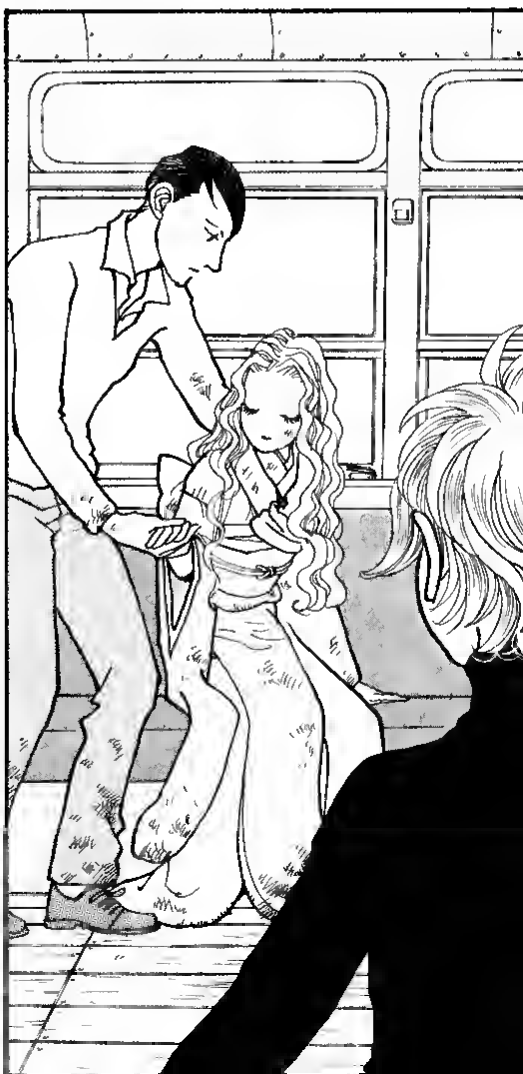


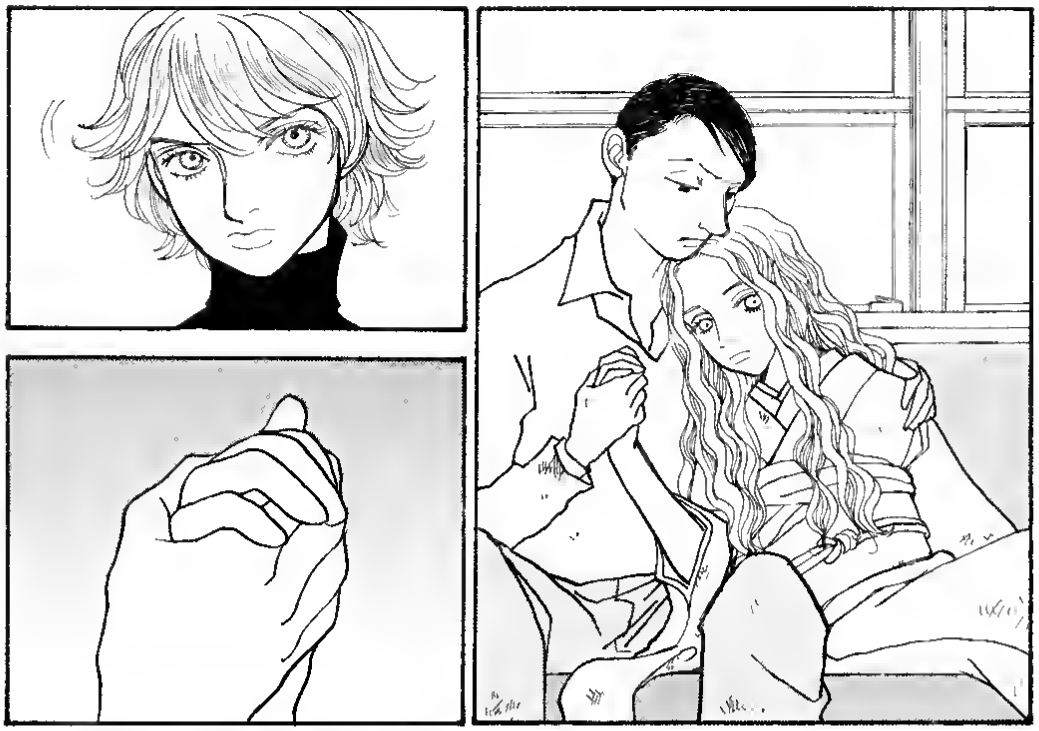


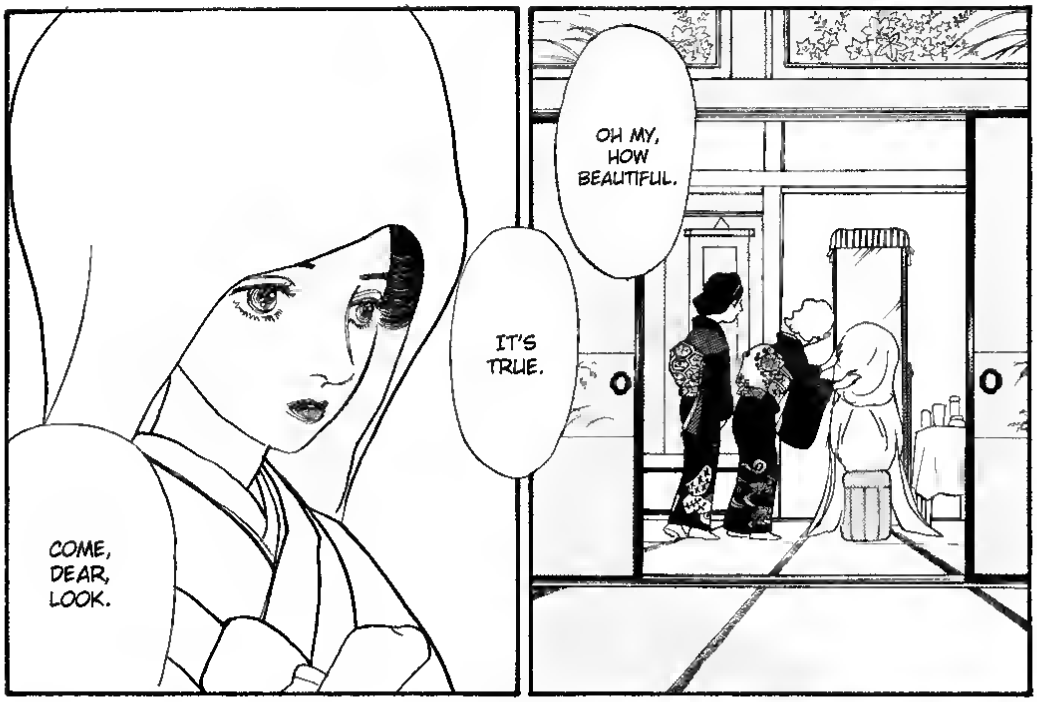


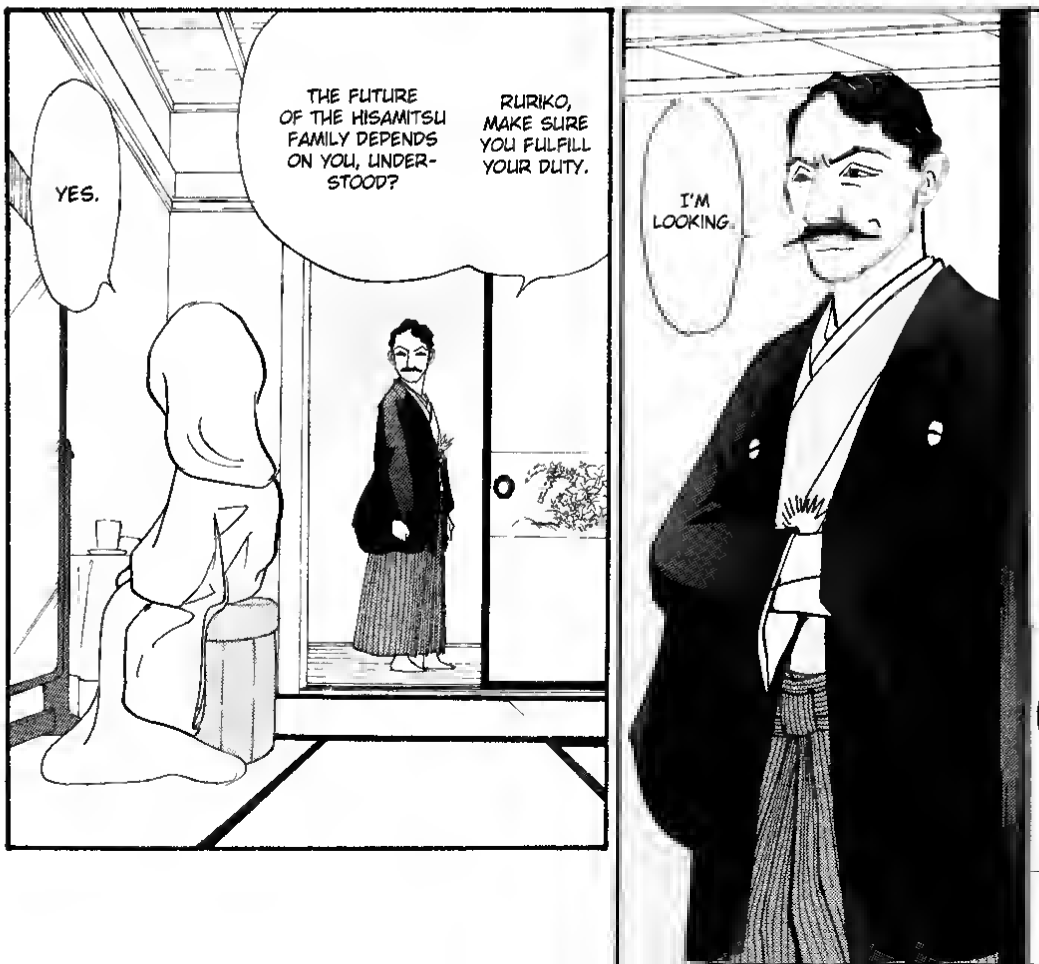


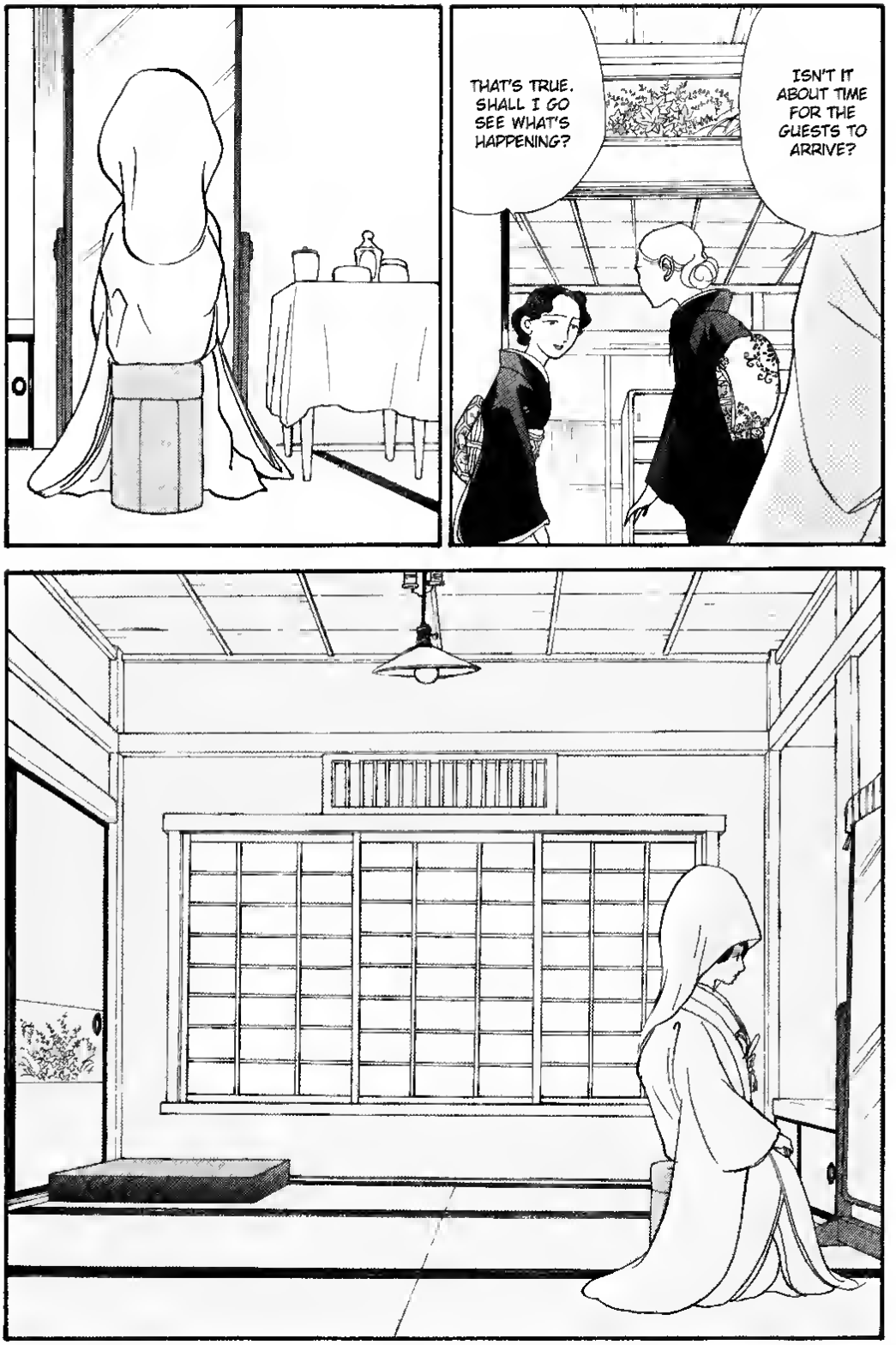


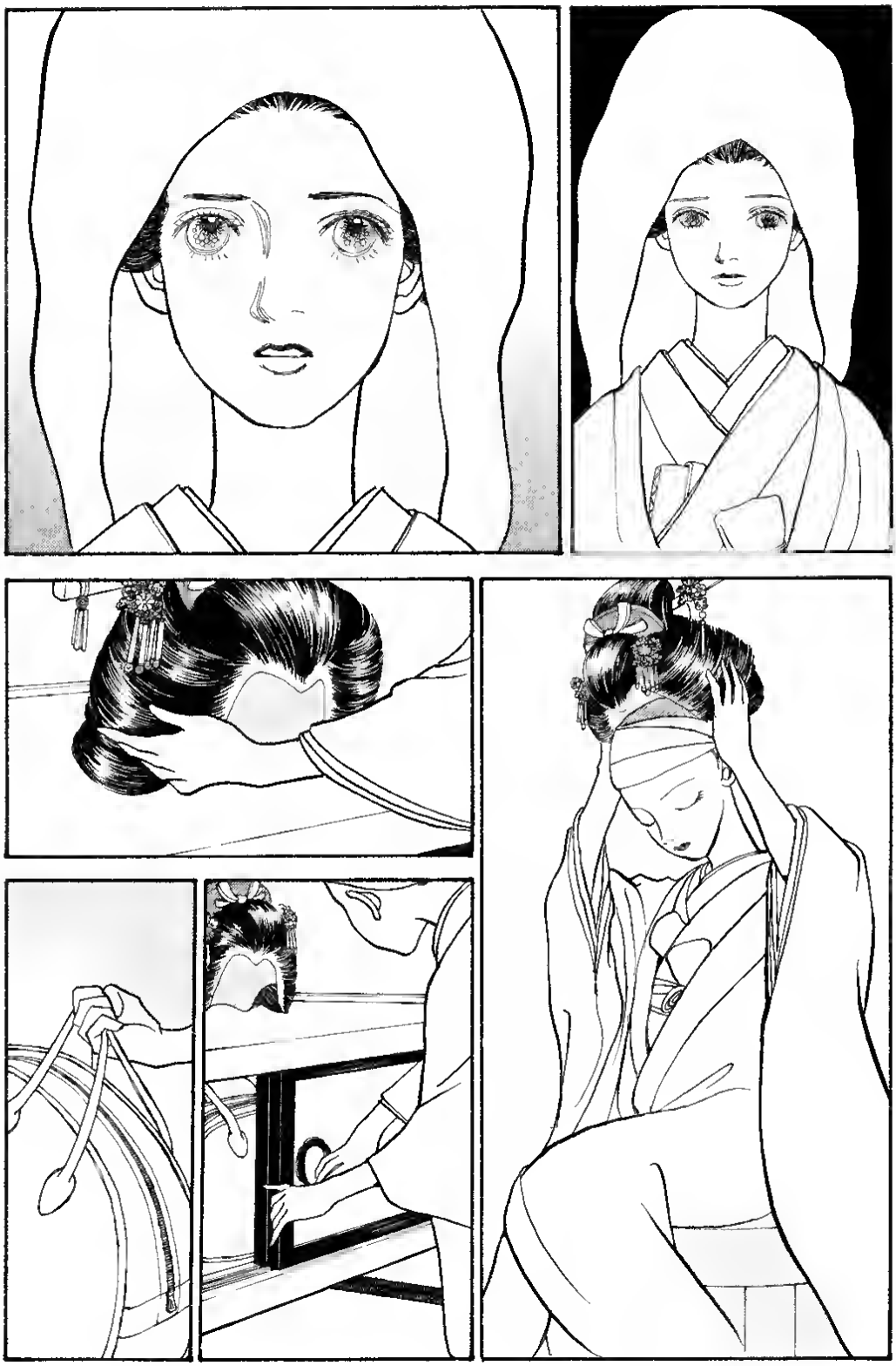


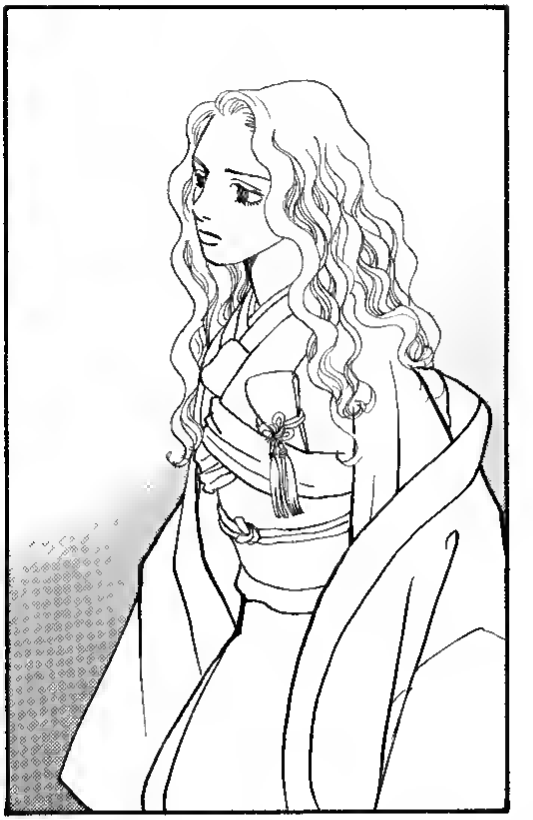


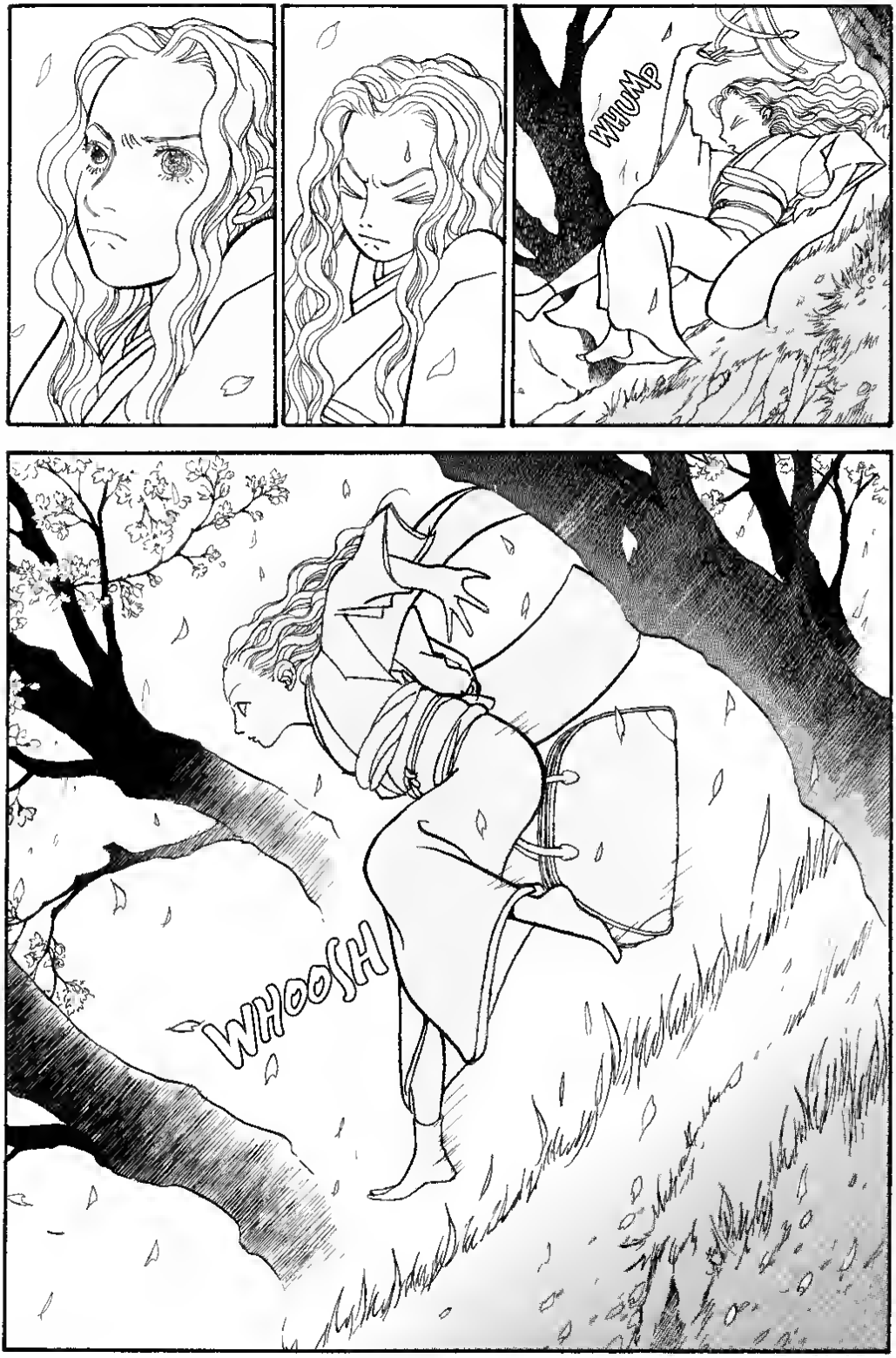

COME, DEAR, LOOK.
IT'S TRUE.
OH MY, HOW BEAUTIFUL.


YES.
THE FUTURE OF THE HISAMITSU FAMILY DEPENDS ON YOU, UNDERSTOOD?
RURIKO, MAKE SURE YOU FULFILL YOUR DUTY.
I'M LOOKING.


ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME FOR THE GUESTS TO ARRIVE?
THAT'S TRUE. SHALL I GO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING?



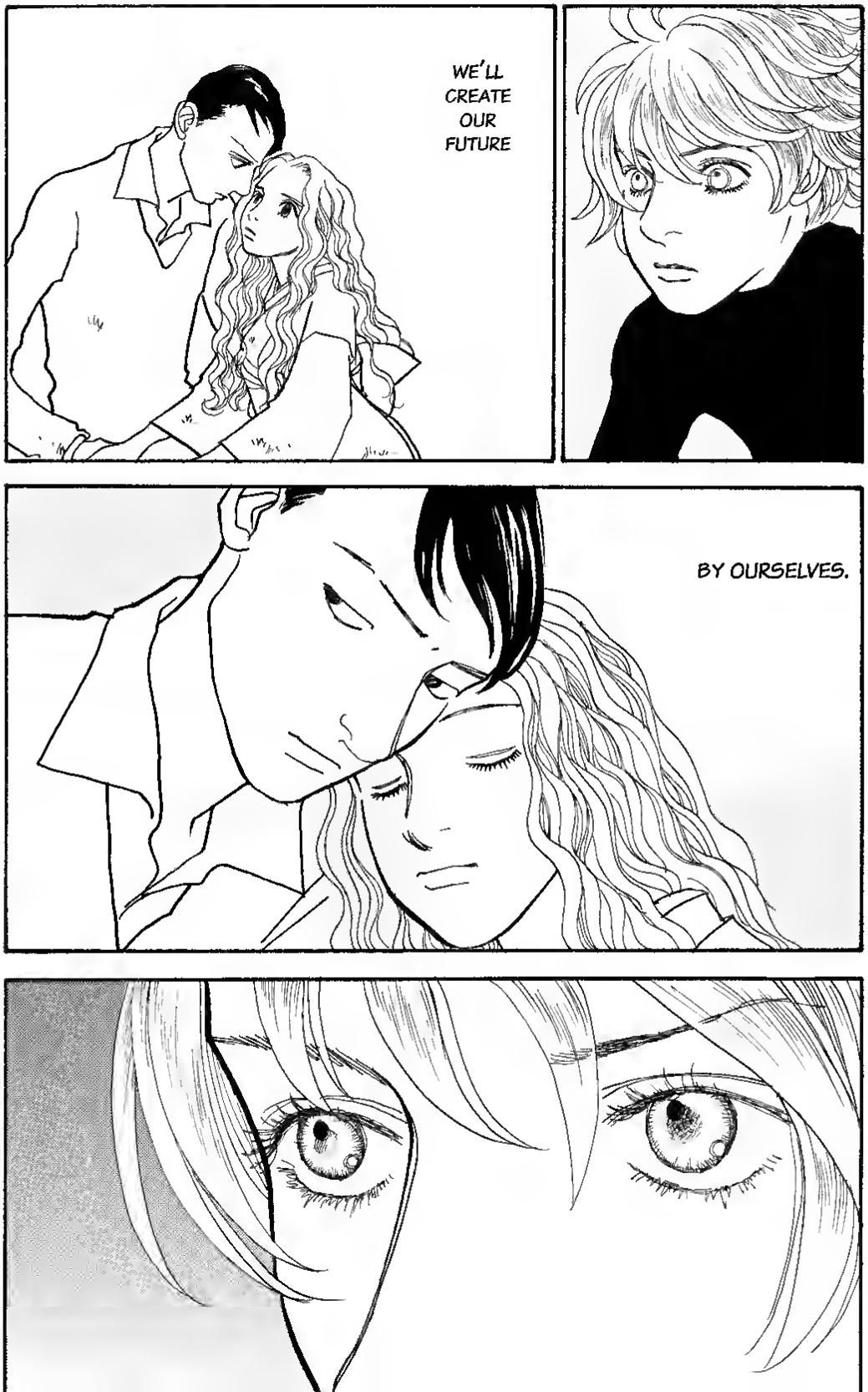



WHUMP
WHOOSH

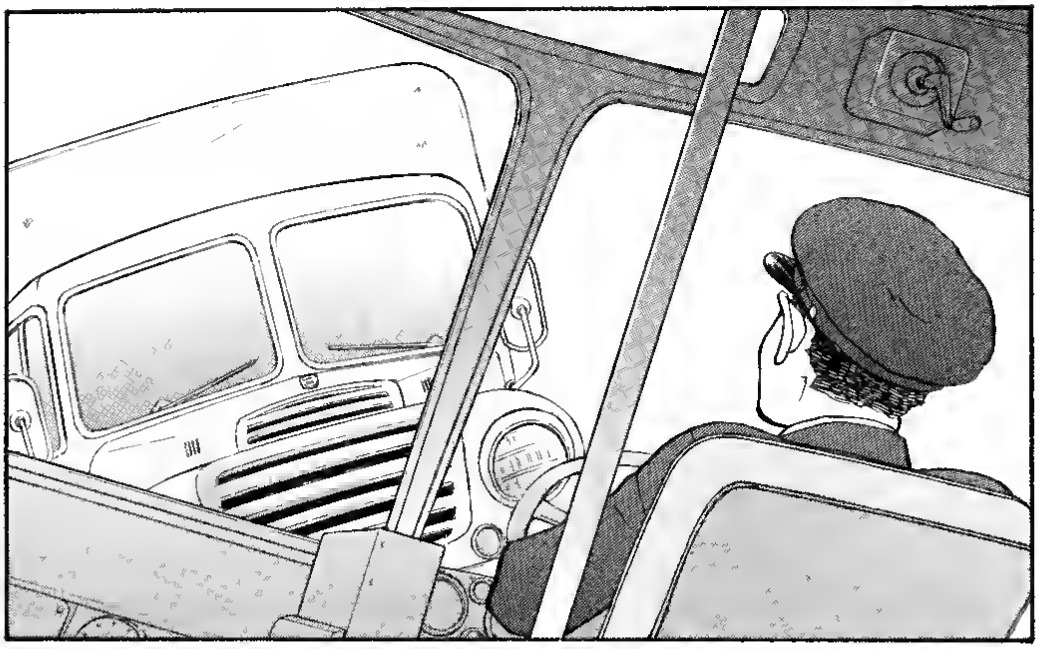
WHOOSH

SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
I'M FINE.
ANYWAY, LET'S HURRY.
YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY BY YOURSELF?!
haa haa

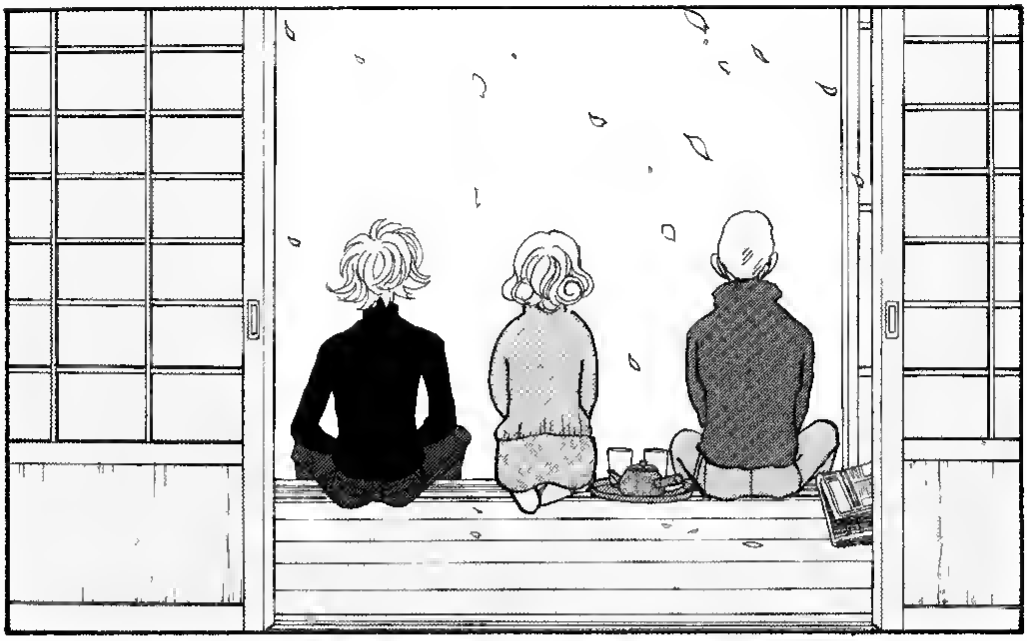
RUN.
RUN.

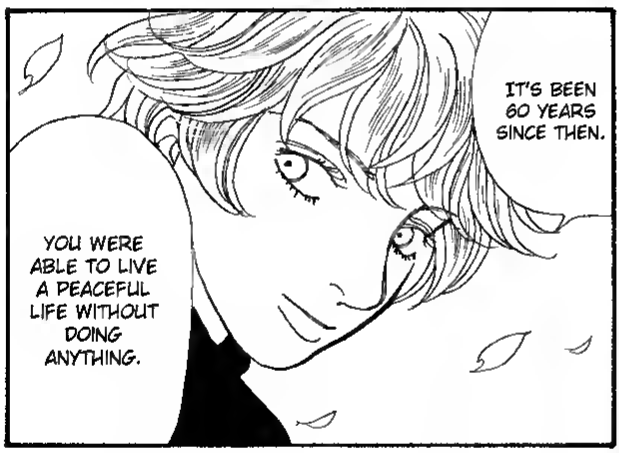

WE'LL CREATE OUR FUTURE
BY OURSELVES.

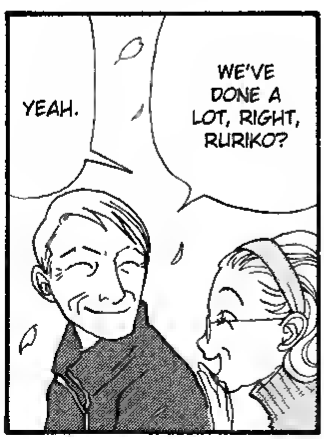
whisper
whisper
rattle
rattle
rattle
...
SHAKE



I DON'T WANT IT TO END.
NO.
ARE WE GOING TO END HERE?
IS THIS THE END...?
DO YOU WANT TO GO
BEYOND THIS...?
WE DO...!!

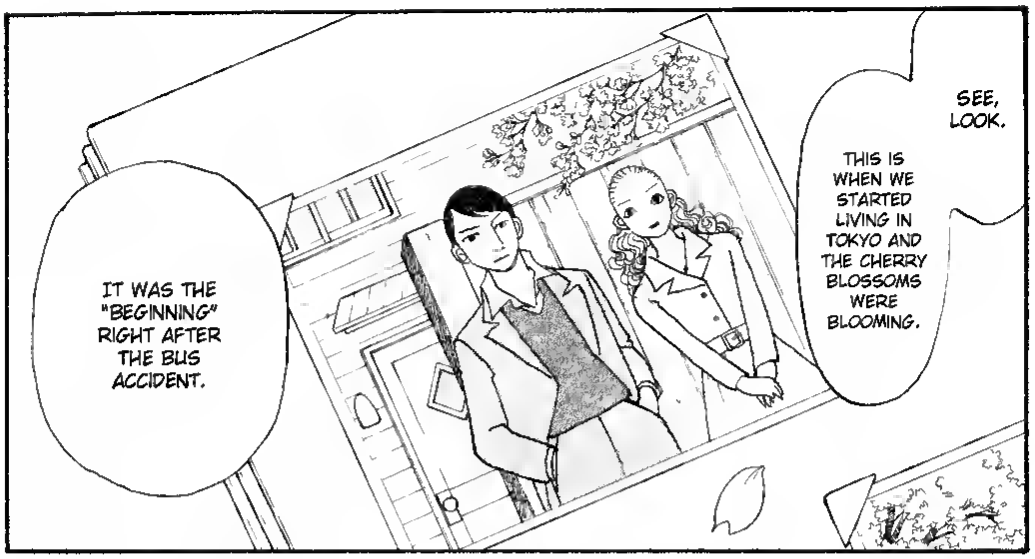


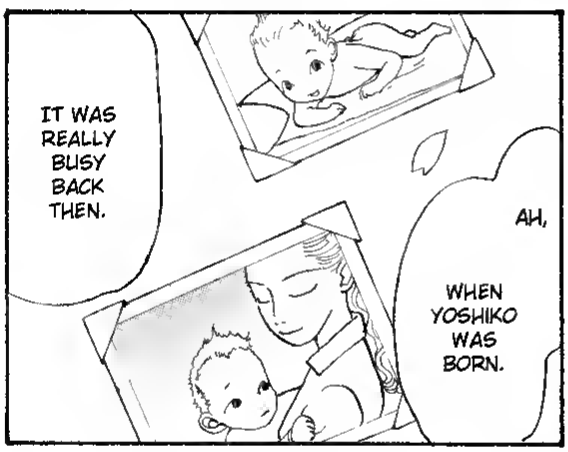

IT'S BEEN 60 YEARS SINCE THEN.
YOU WERE ABLE TO LIVE A PEACEFUL LIFE WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING.


YEAH.
WE'VE DONE A LOT, RIGHT, RURIKO?

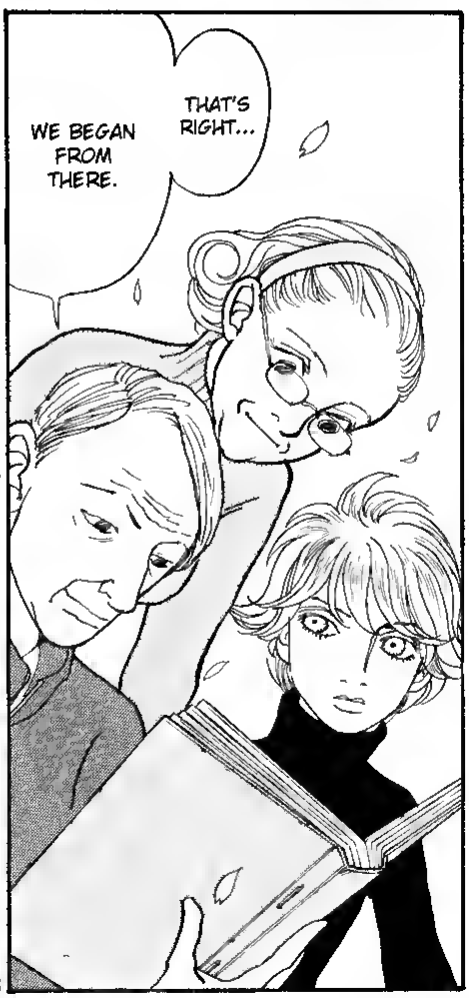
FUFU...

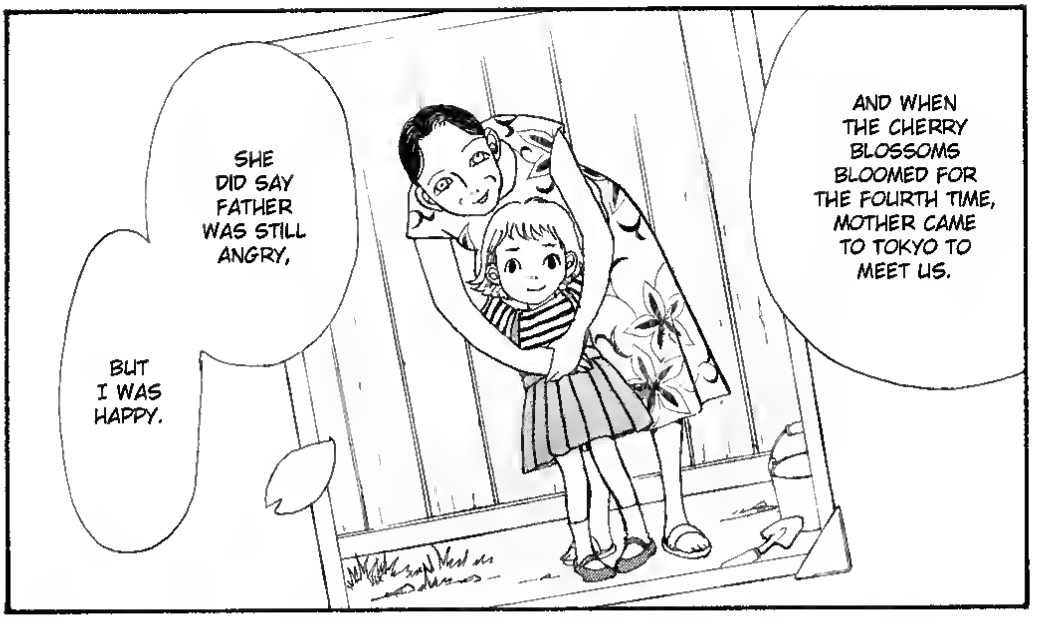
I KNOW.
clap
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THE ALBUM, IF HE SEES THIS.
OHH, RIGHT.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE LOOKED AT IT.
OUR LIFE AFTER THAT IS ALL IN HERE.

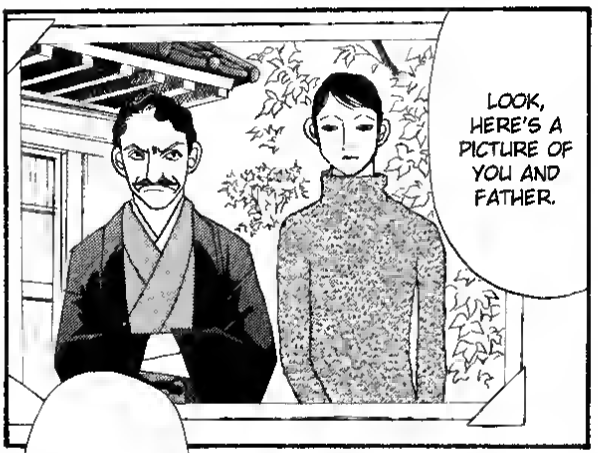

IT WAS THE "BEGINNING" RIGHT AFTER THE BUS ACCIDENT.
SEE, LOOK.
THIS IS WHEN WE STARTED LIVING IN TOKYO AND THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS WERE BLOOMING.


IT WAS REALLY BUSY BACK THEN.
AH,
WHEN YOSHIKO WAS BORN.

WE WROTE COUNTLESS LETTERS BACK HOME...
AND SENT PICTURES OF YOSHIKO...


WE BEGAN FROM THERE.
THAT'S RIGHT...

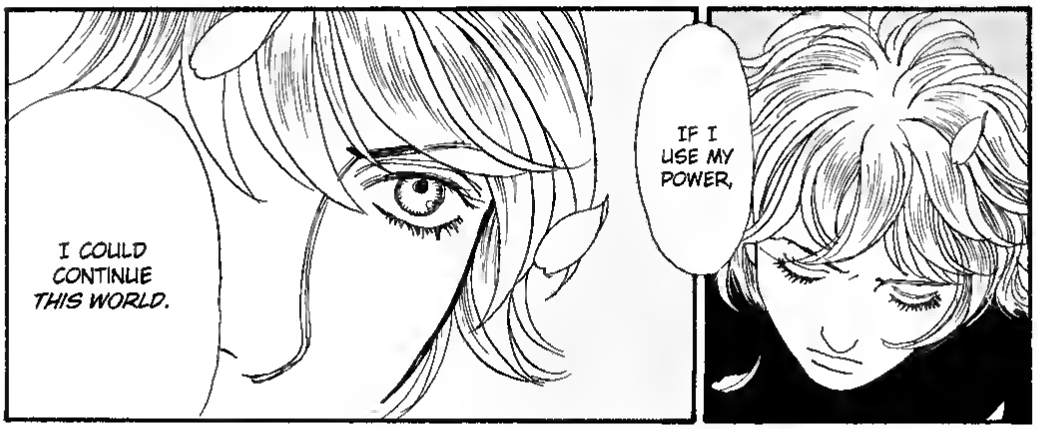

AND WHEN THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS BLOOMED FOR THE FOURTH TIME, MOTHER CAME TO TOKYO TO MEET US.
SHE DID SAY FATHER WAS STILL ANGRY,
BUT I WAS HAPPY.

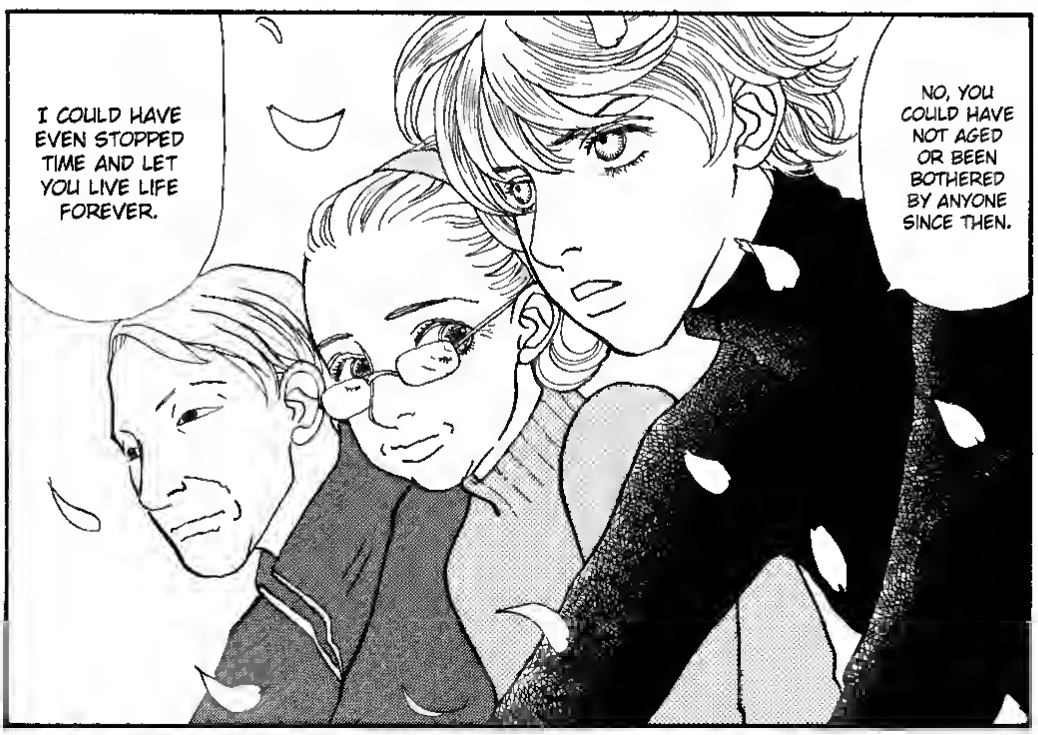

LOOK, HERE'S A PICTURE OF YOU AND FATHER.

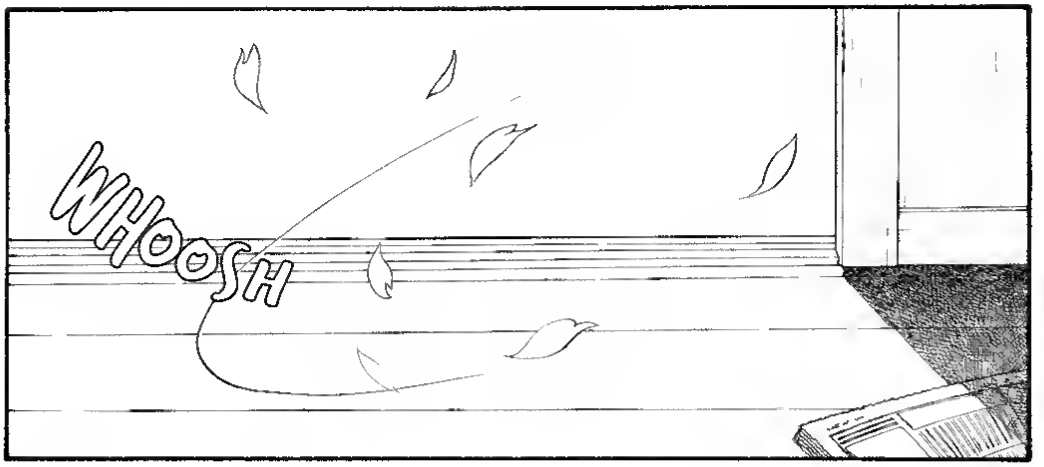
IT WAS AFTER TAKUMA WAS BORN THAT FATHER SOFTENED UP.
WE COULD FINALLY GO BACK HOME.

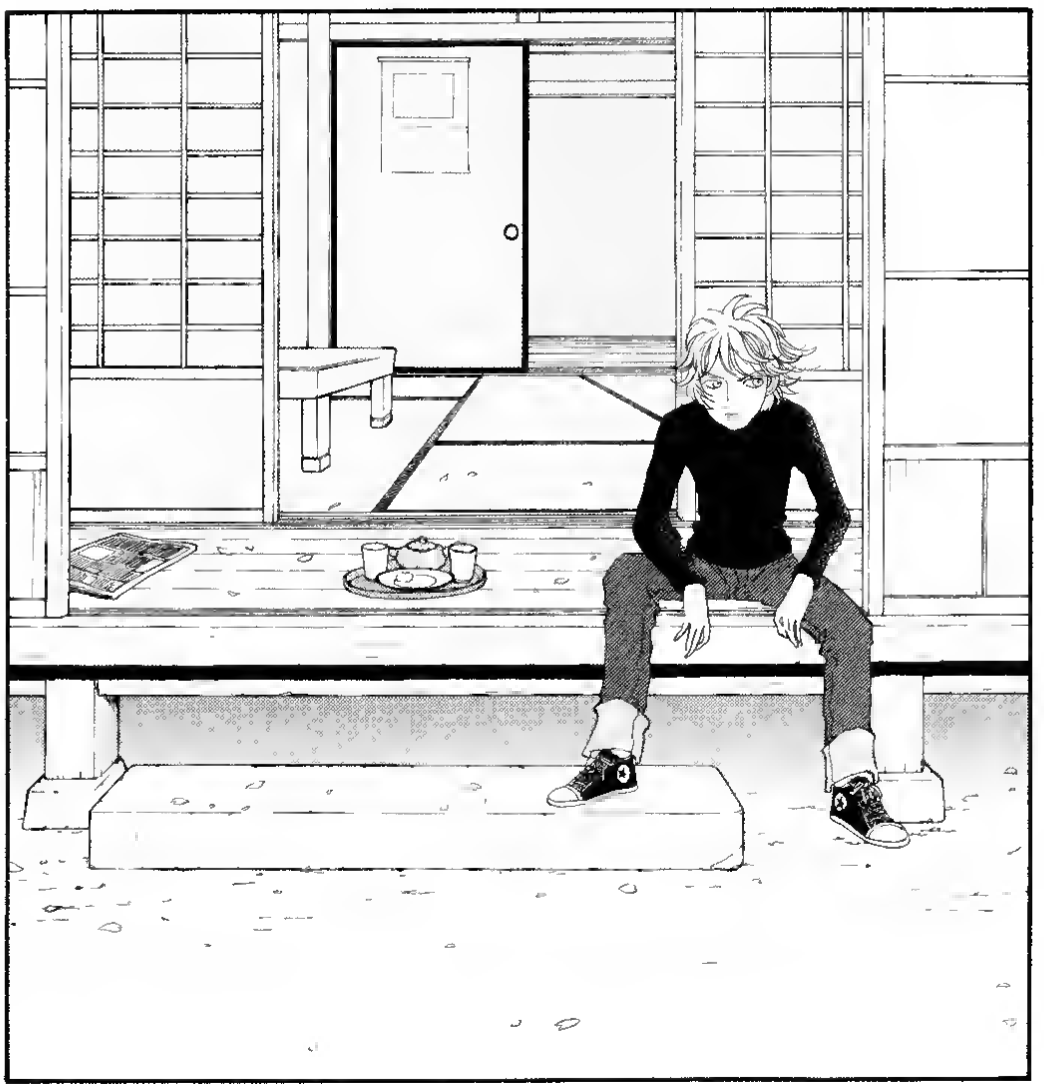
WE'RE BOTH STIFF... HAHAHA.

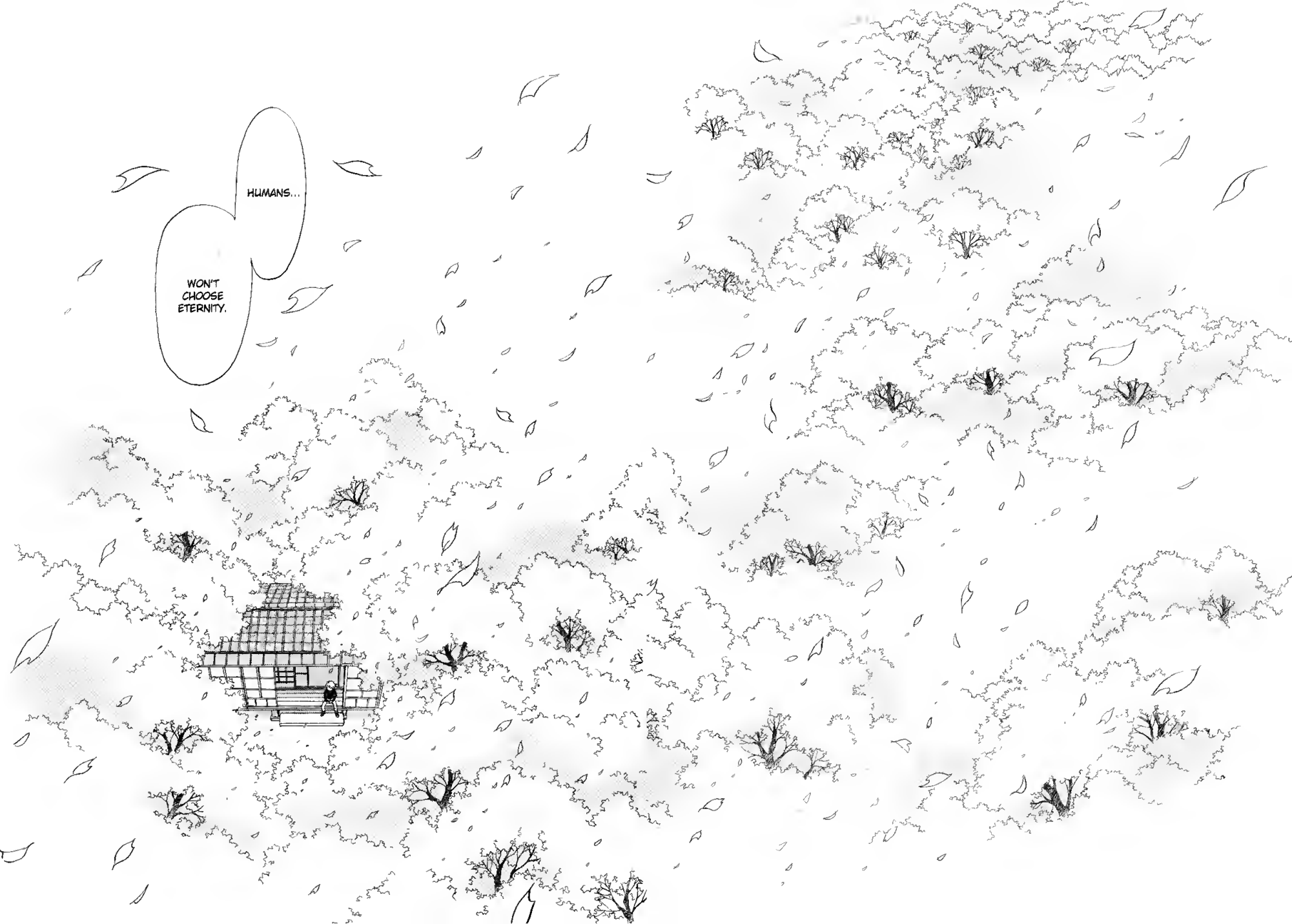
THANK YOU.
BECAUSE OF YOU, THAT BUS ACCIDENT WASN'T OUR END,
BUT OUR "BEGINNING."

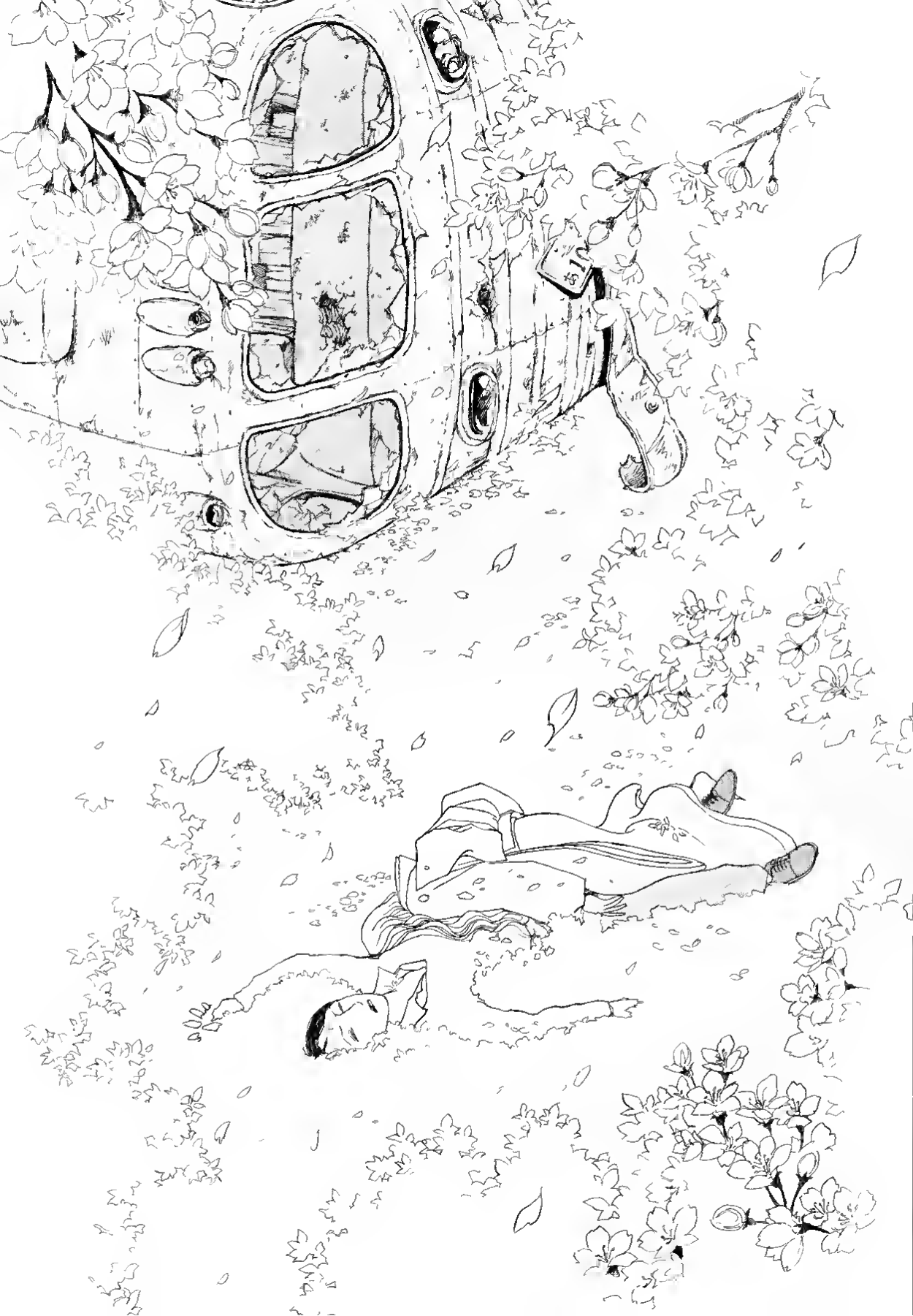

IF I USE MY POWER,
I COULD CONTINUE THIS WORLD.


NO, YOU COULD HAVE NOT AGED OR BEEN BOTHERED BY ANYONE SINCE THEN.
I COULD HAVE EVEN STOPPED TIME AND LET YOU LIVE LIFE FOREVER.


WHOOSH




HUMANS...
WON'T CHOOSE ETERNITY.



THE WONDER BOY
(Chapter 1)
RP & Translator: Yuuko-san
Proofreader: blueberry
Editor: tolbow
Blue Flare
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Blue Flor Omake

DEAR ANONYMOUS READERS!
TheWhiteBunny
YOU MEAN NEW BLOOD.
WE'RE IN GREAT NEED FOR NEW SOULS TO EAT.
Fennil
Blueberry
SHUT UP! I'M TALKING. SO, THIS NEW BLOOD RITUAL WE'RE—
NO, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE—

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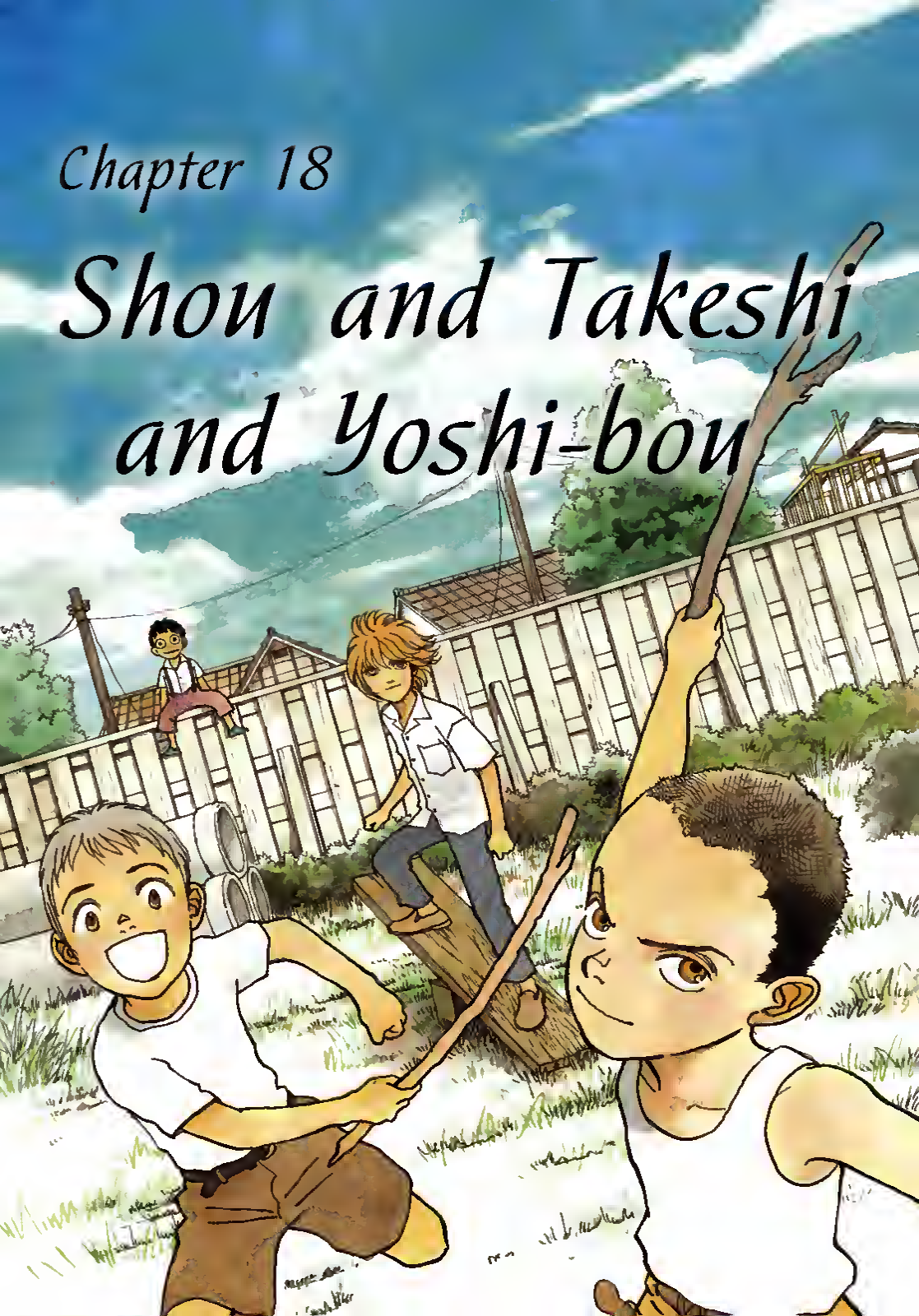
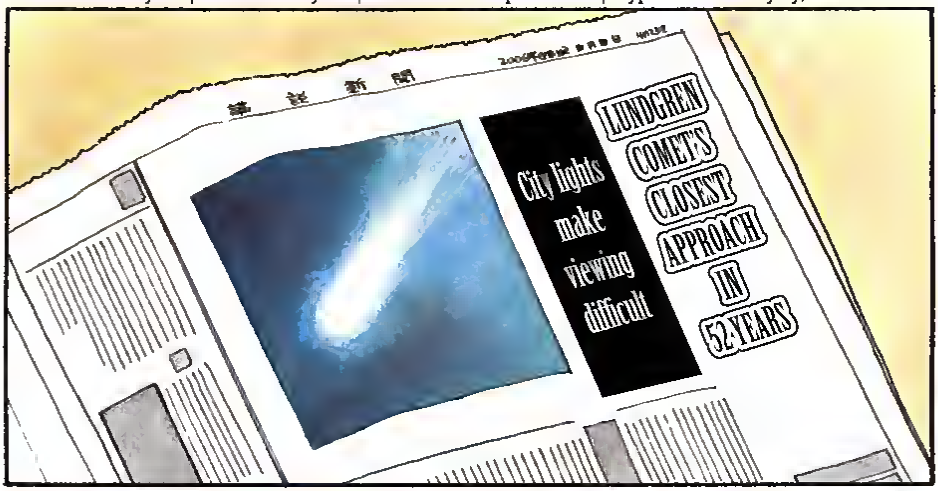
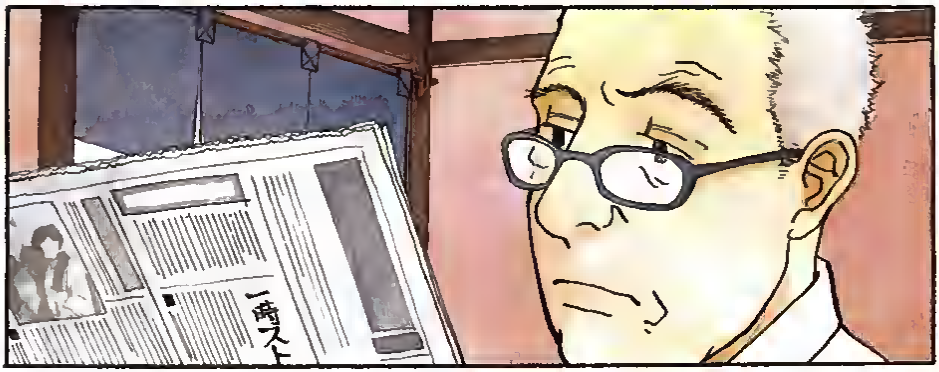
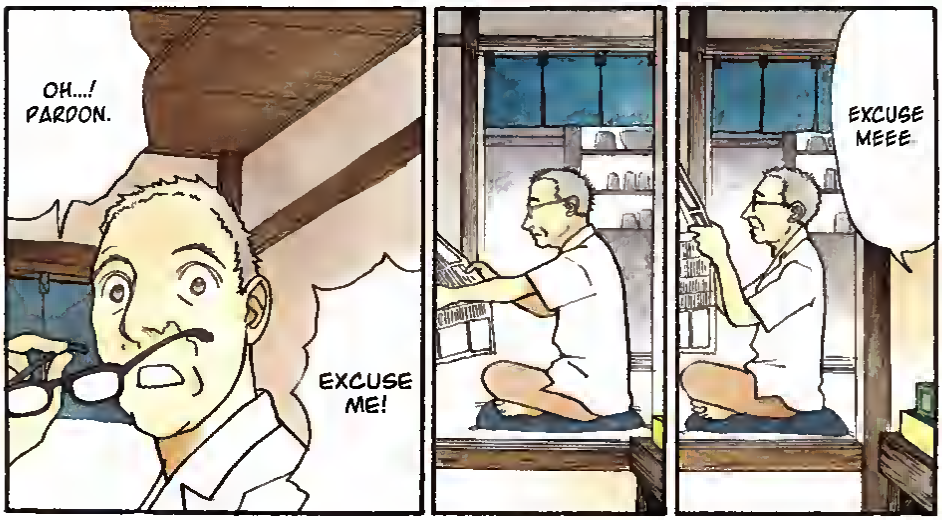
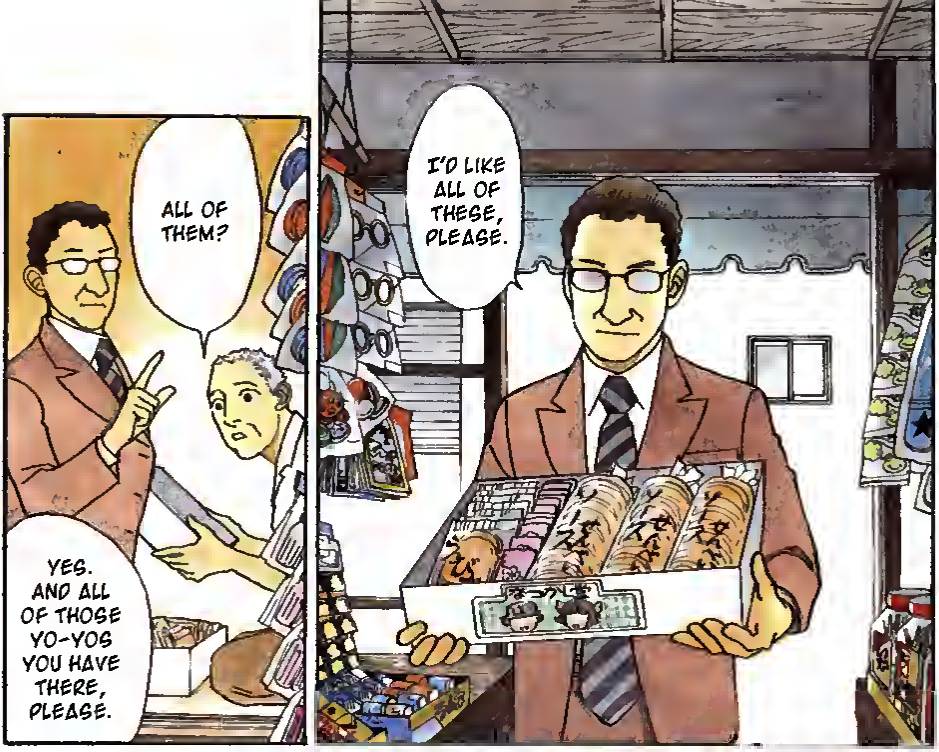

Chapter 18
Shou and Takeshi and Yoshi-bou

Translator: Taylor | Cleaner: Sayuri | Proofreader: spacehead | Typesetters: Iruyily/Mitsuru-kun

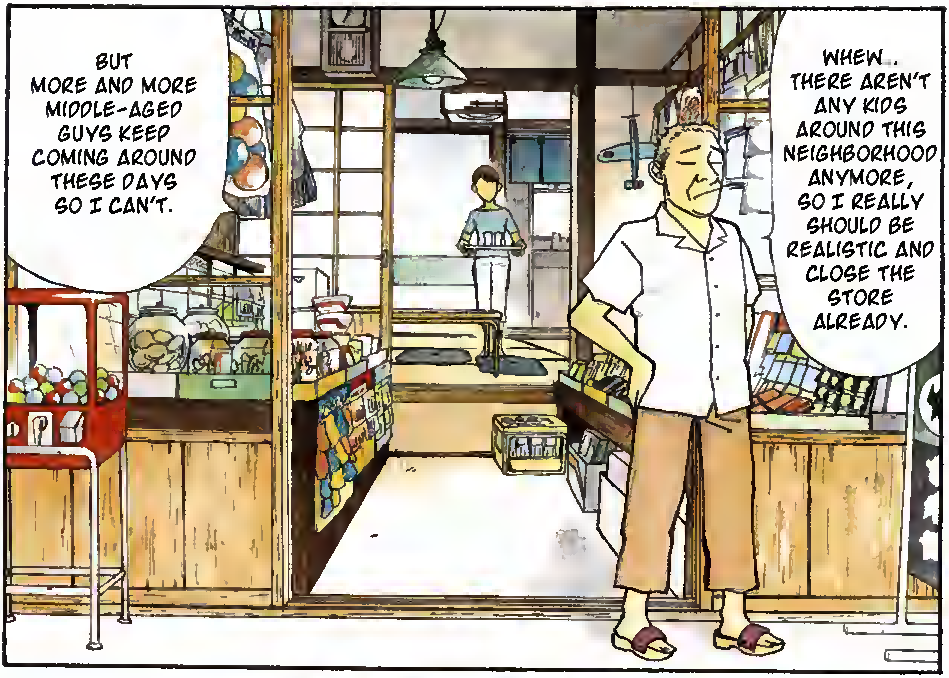


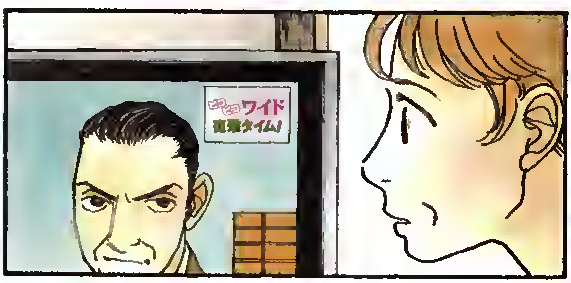




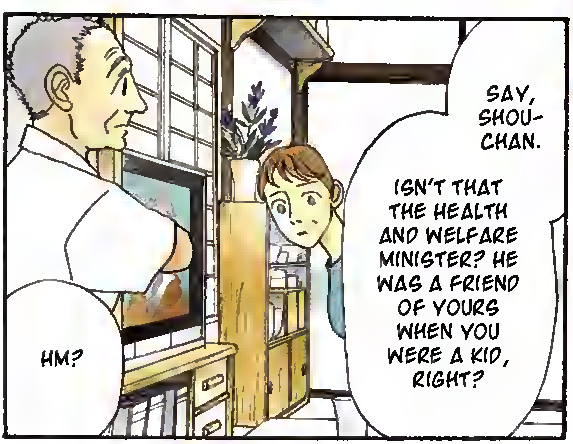


SIGN: CANDY STORE TAMARUYA

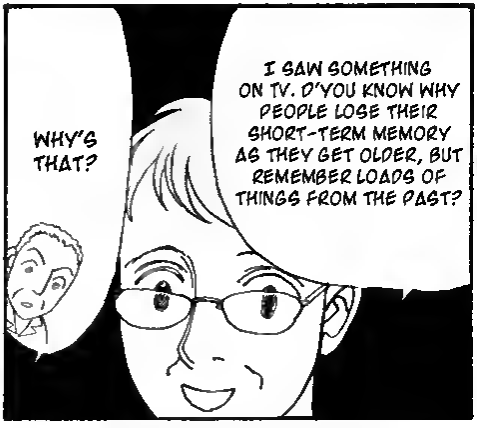

BUT MORE AND MORE MIDDLE-AGED GUYS KEEP COMING AROUND THESE DAYS SO I CAN'T.
WHEW... THERE AREN'T ANY KIDS AROUND THIS NEIGHBORHOOD ANYMORE, SO I REALLY SHOULD BE REALISTIC AND CLOSE THE STORE ALREADY.

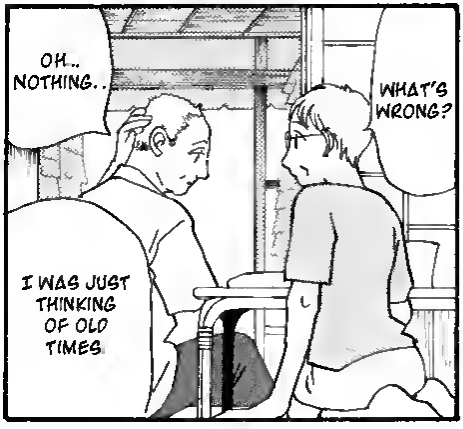

ワイド
情報タイム!

I GUESS... STILL, SOMETHING DOESN'T ADD UP.
THAT'S GOOD, ISN'T IT? THE OLDER GUYS ARE GOOD CUSTOMERS.
KIDS TODAY DREAM ABOUT DIFFERENT THINGS, ANYWAY.

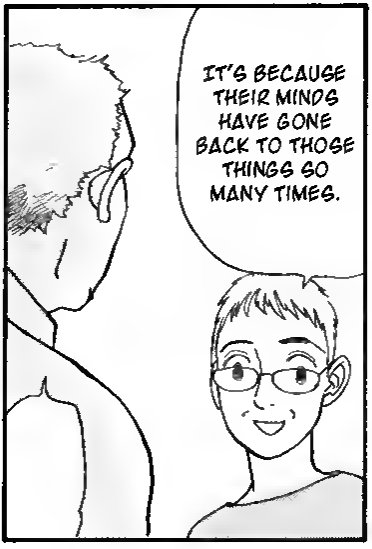

SAY, SHOU-CHAN.
ISN'T THAT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTER? HE WAS A FRIEND OF YOURS WHEN YOU WERE A KID, RIGHT?
HM?

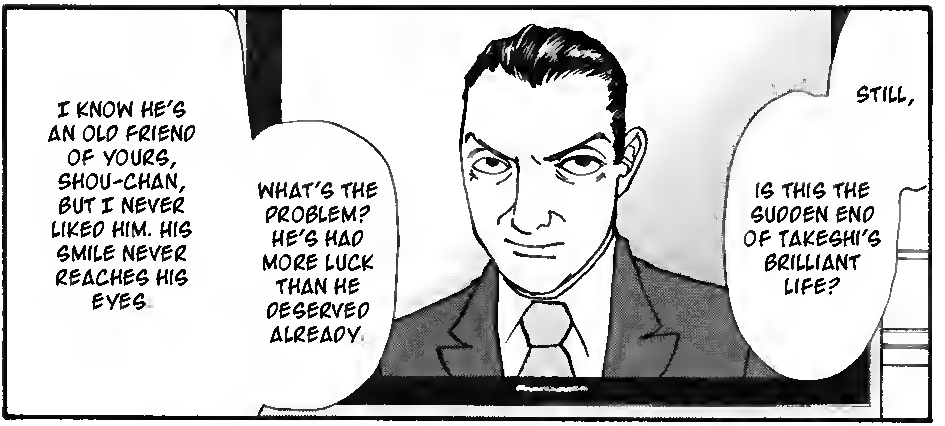
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE SEARCHING HIS HOUSE BECAUSE HE'S BEEN SUSPECTED OF ACCEPTING BRIBES.
SAITOU TAKESHI?
YEAH.
YOU'RE NEXT, TAKESHI.


I SAW SOMETHING ON TV. D'YOU KNOW WHY PEOPLE LOSE THEIR SHORT-TERM MEMORY AS THEY GET OLDER, BUT REMEMBER LOADS OF THINGS FROM THE PAST?
WHY'S THAT?

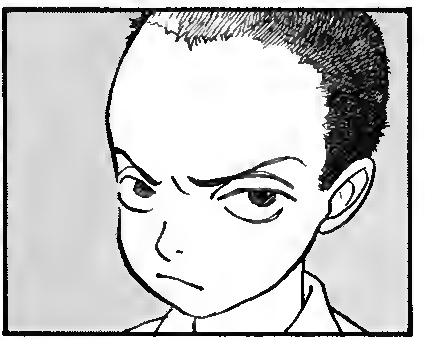

WHAT'S WRONG?
OH... NOTHING..
I WAS JUST THINKING OF OLD TIMES.

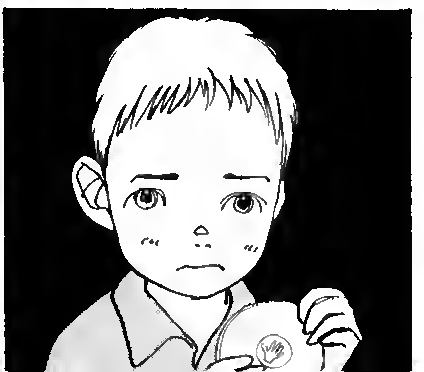
I THOUGHT IT WAS KIND OF A HOKEY ANSWER, BUT...
WELL, IT IS TRUE, ISN'T IT... MMHMM.


IT'S BECAUSE THEIR MINDS HAVE GONE BACK TO THOSE THINGS SO MANY TIMES.

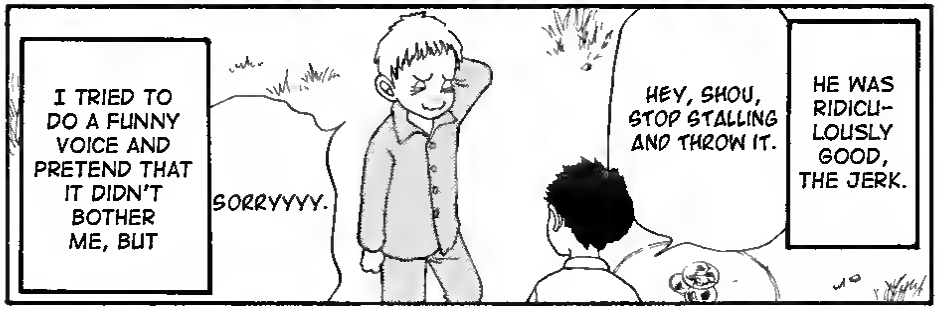

I KNOW HE'S AN OLD FRIEND OF YOURS, SHOU-CHAN, BUT I NEVER LIKED HIM. HIS SMILE NEVER REACHES HIS EYES.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? HE'S HAD MORE LUCK THAN HE DESERVED ALREADY.
STILL,
IS THIS THE SUDDEN END OF TAKESHI'S BRILLIANT LIFE?

I WAS ANXIOUS A LOT OF THE TIME, BACK THEN.



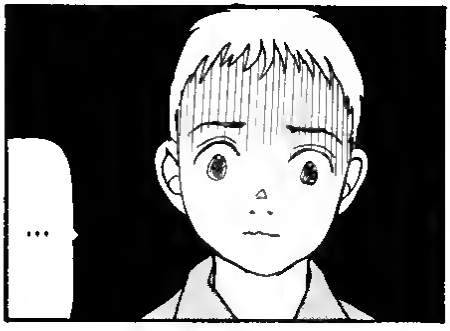


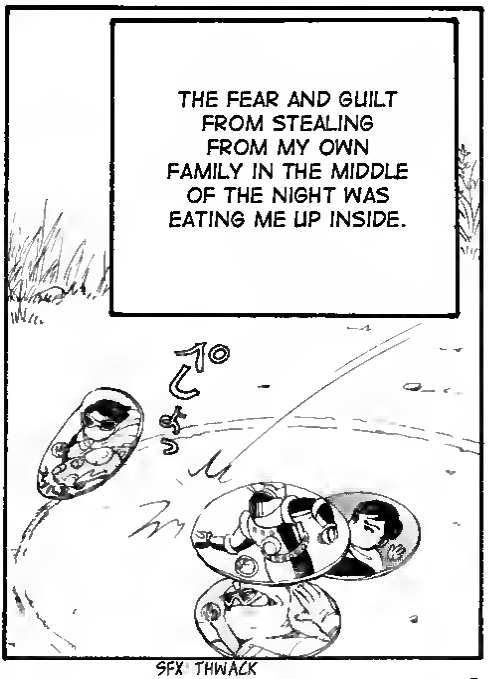
T/N GAME WHERE YOU TRY TO FLIP OVER THE OTHER PLAYER'S CARDS WITH YOUR OWN


I TRIED TO DO A FUNNY VOICE AND PRETEND THAT IT DIDN'T BOTHER ME, BUT
SORRYYYY.
HEY, SHOU, STOP STALLING AND THROW IT.
HE WAS RIDICU-LOUSLY GOOD, THE JERK.

T/N EXACTLY WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE, CARAMELS IN DICE-SHAPED WRAPPERS

SFX GRIN

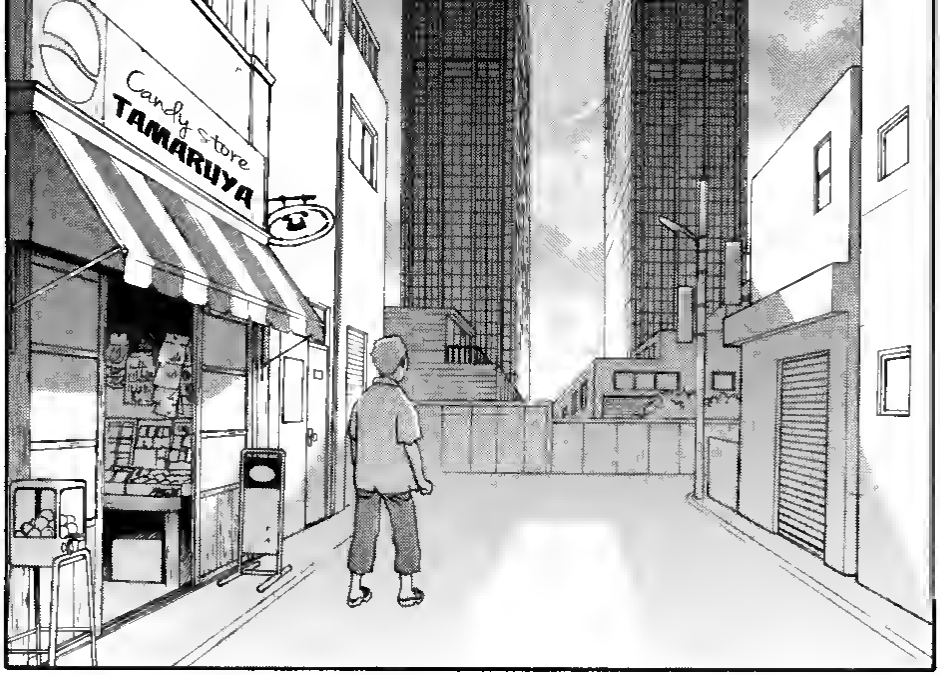




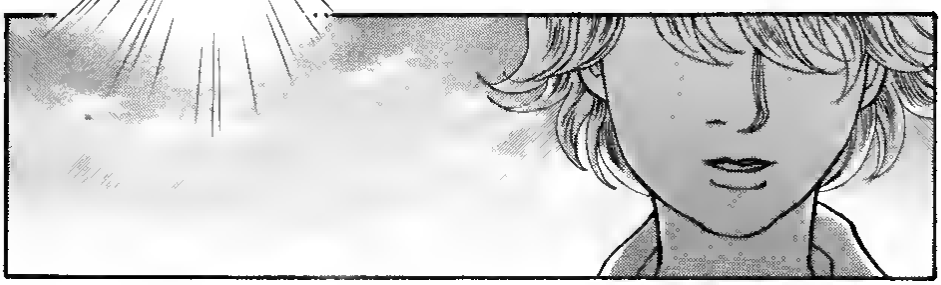
SFX THWACK

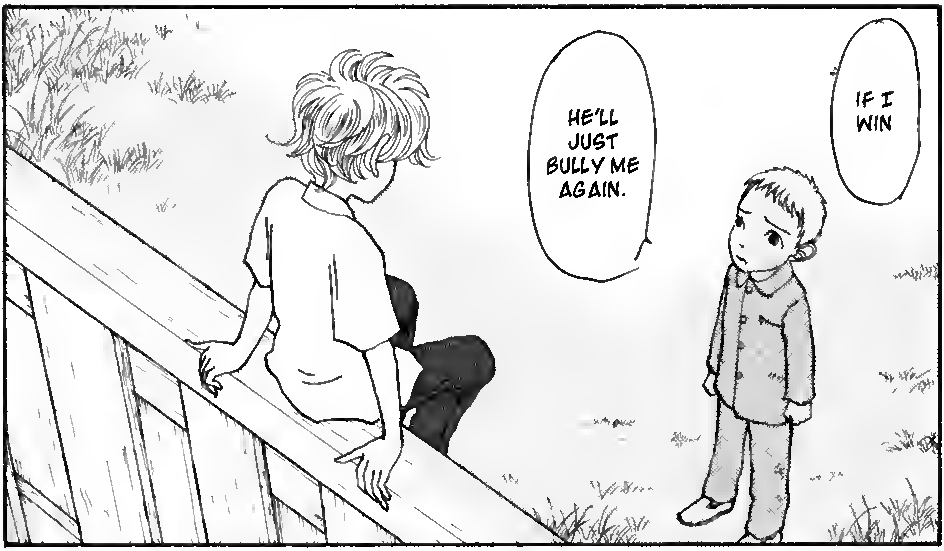
そお〜〜っ
SFX: SNEAK
SFX: SNORE
GORE
SNOO-
...
SFX: PHEW
...
THE AMERICANS ARE HERE!
SFX: SLAM

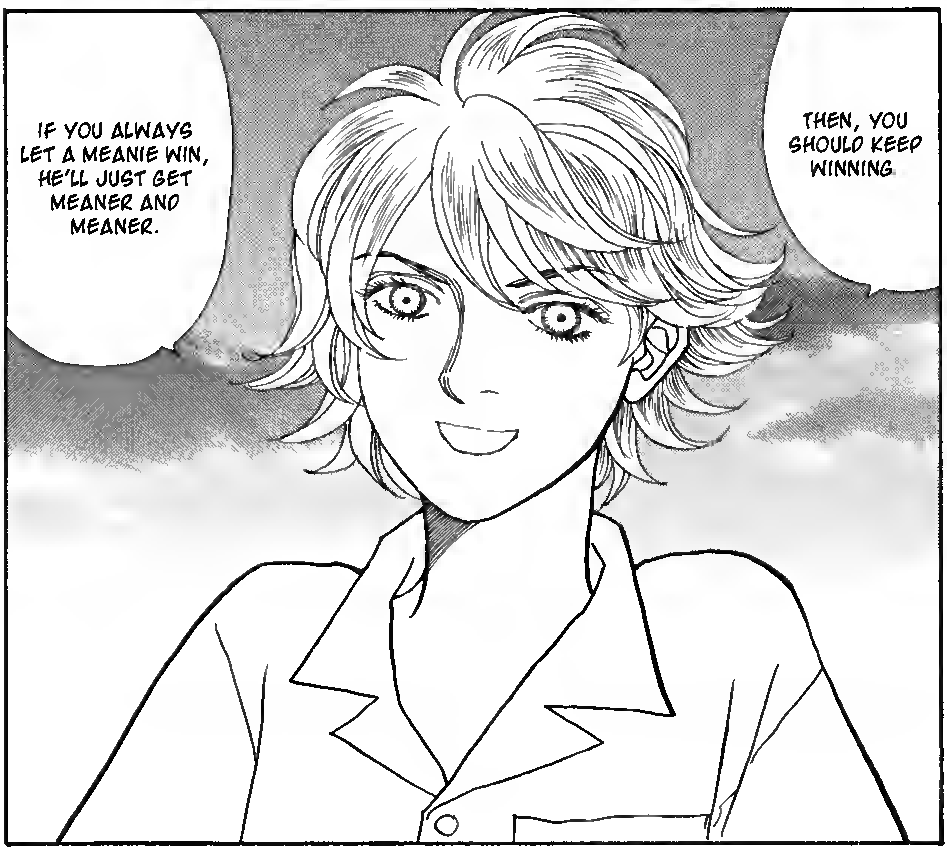
IN THOSE DAYS, OR RATHER THOSE NIGHTS, I WAS HAUNTED BY SOME PRETTY COMPLEX SHADOWS.
Closest approach in 52 years

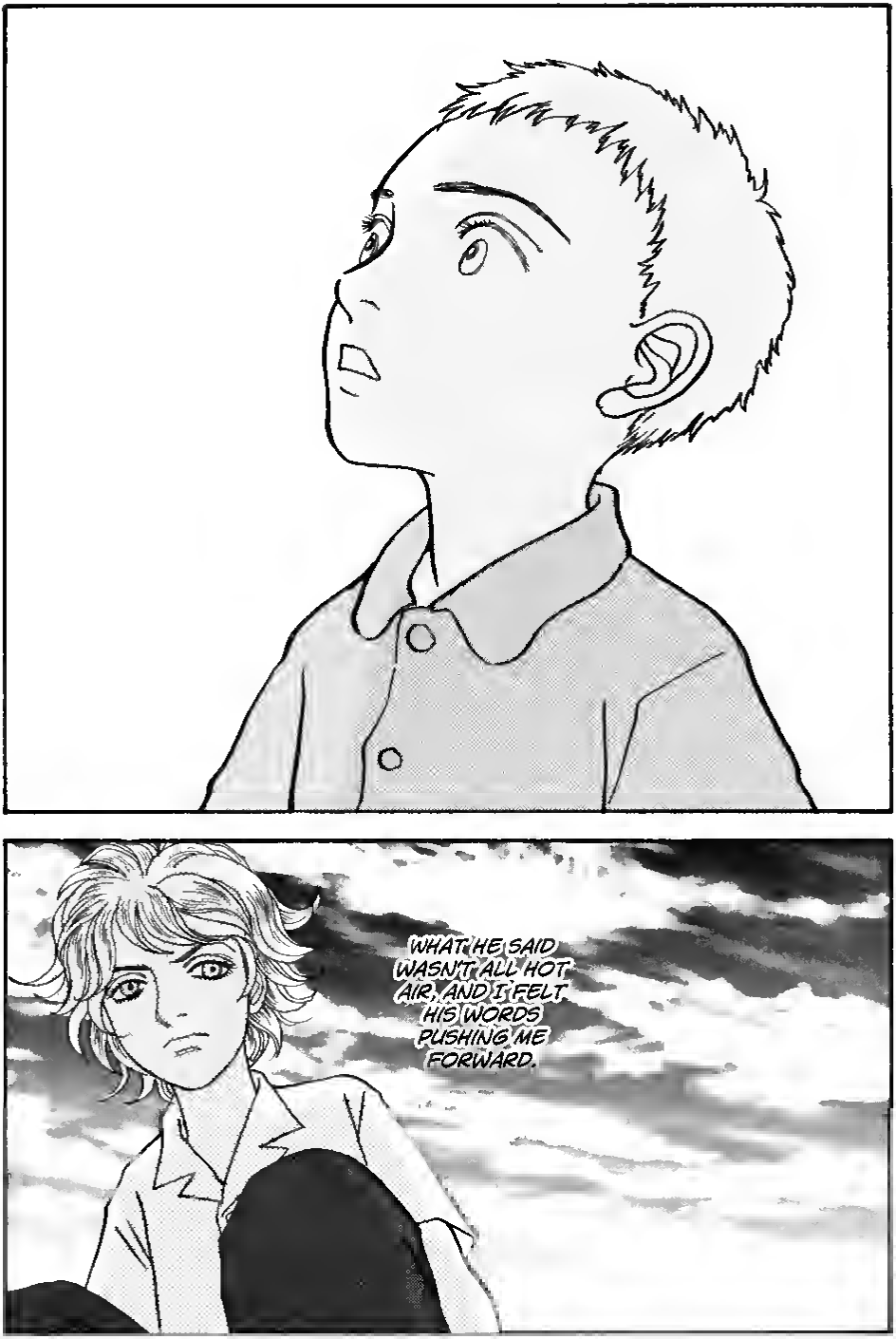

Candy Store
TAMARUYA

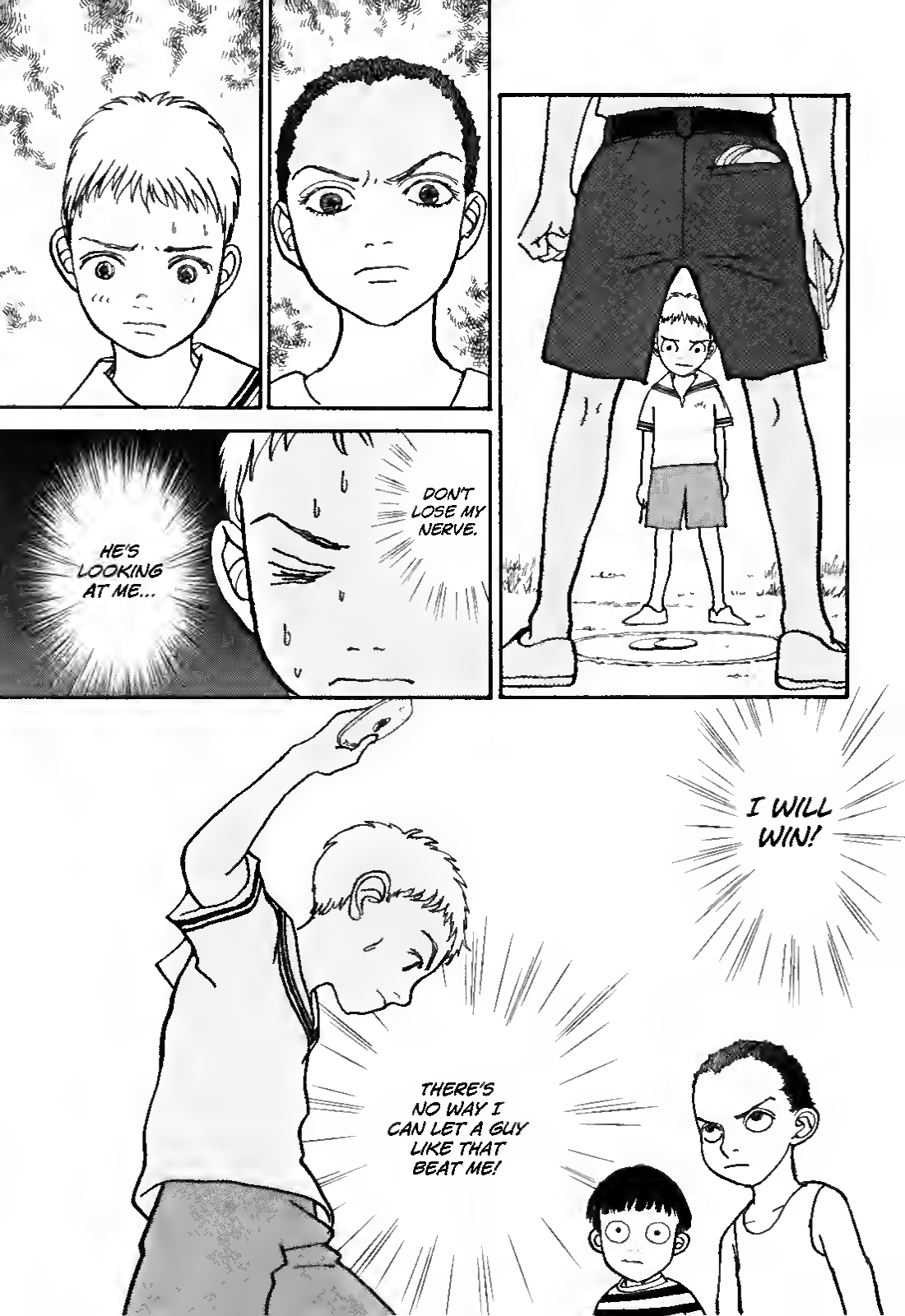
THINK ABOUT WINNING.
YOU CAN'T ONLY PICTURE YOURSELF LOSING.

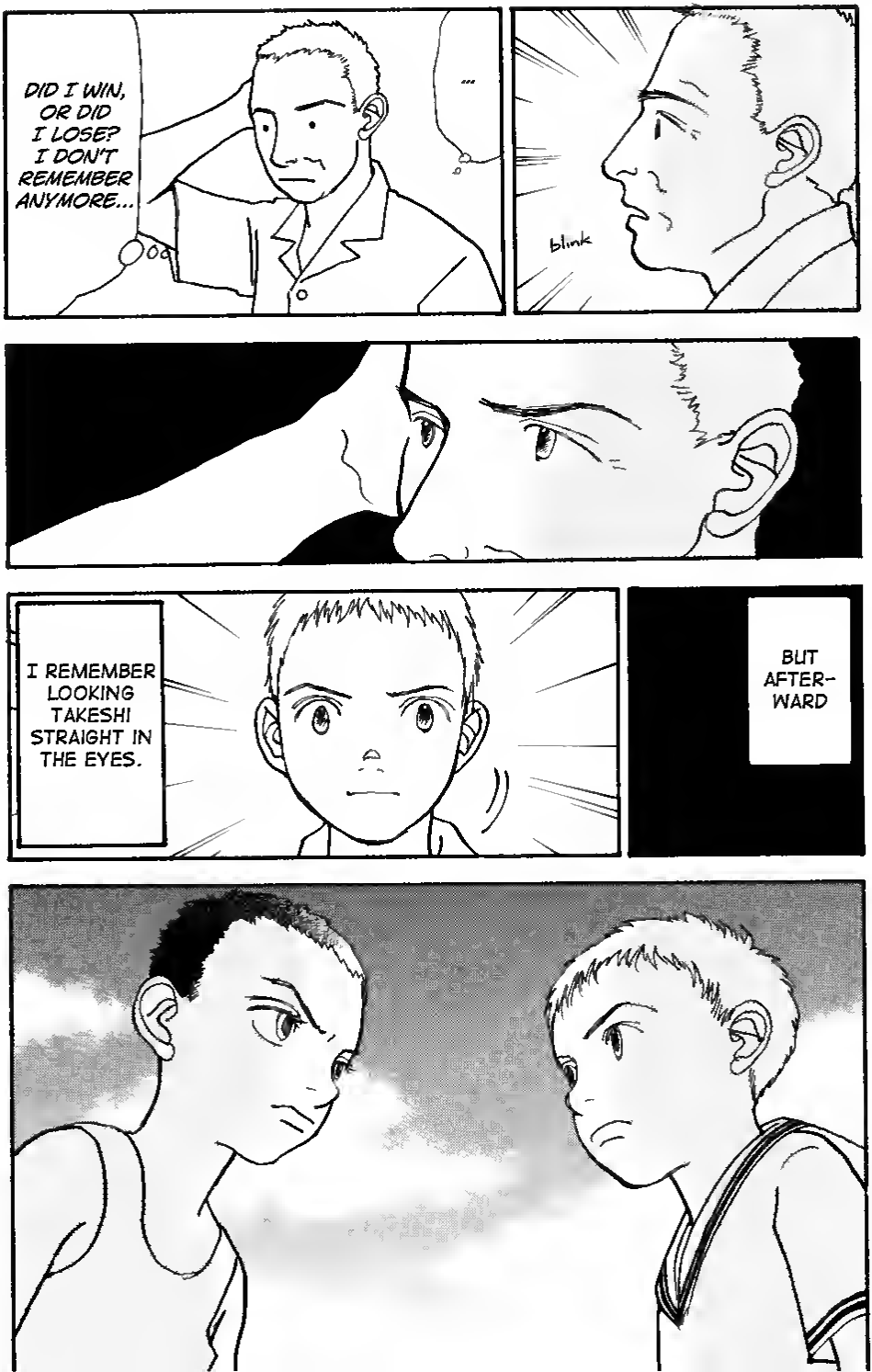



IF I WIN
HE'LL JUST BULLY ME AGAIN.


THEN, YOU SHOULD KEEP WINNING.
IF YOU ALWAYS LET A MEANIE WIN, HE'LL JUST GET MEANER AND MEANER.

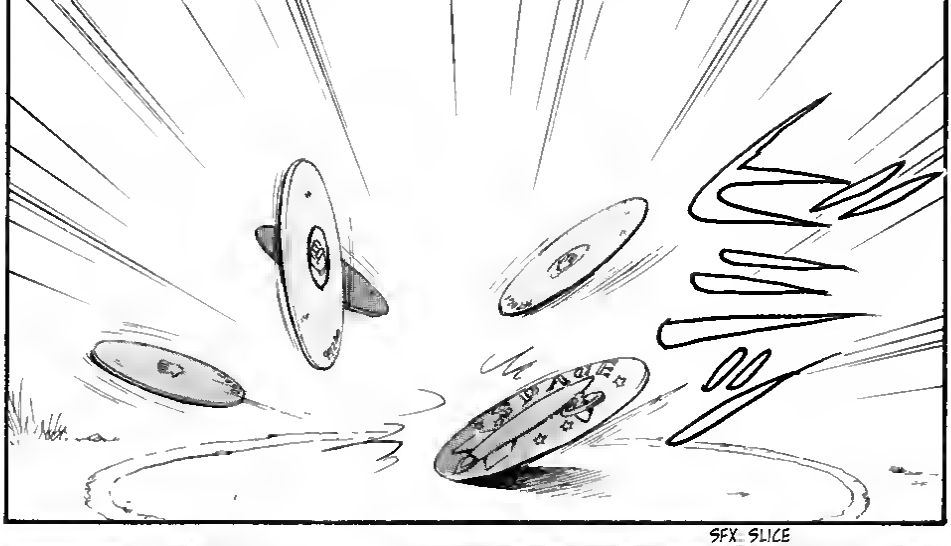

WHAT HE SAID WASN'T ALL HOT AIR, AND I FELT HIS WORDS PUSHING ME FORWARD.

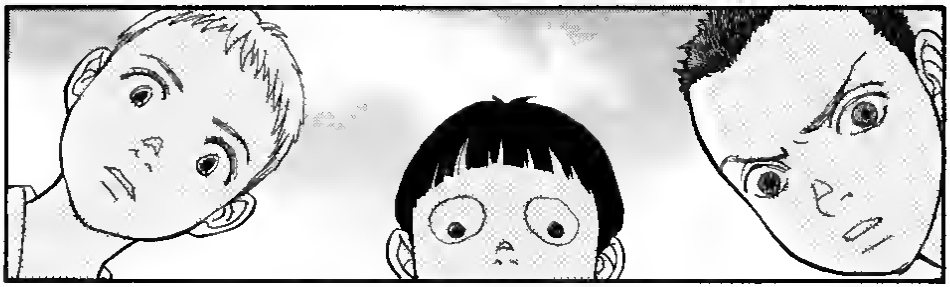

HE'S LOOKING AT ME...
DON'T LOSE MY NERVE.
I WILL WIN!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN LET A GUY LIKE THAT BEAT ME!

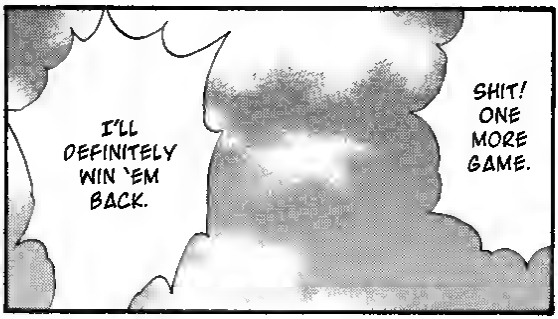

DID I WIN, OR DID I LOSE? I DON'T REMEMBER ANYMORE...
...
blink
I REMEMBER LOOKING TAKESHI STRAIGHT IN THE EYES.
BUT AFTER-WARD

WHAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM?
LOOKS LIKE FUN.
LET ME PLAY NEXT.

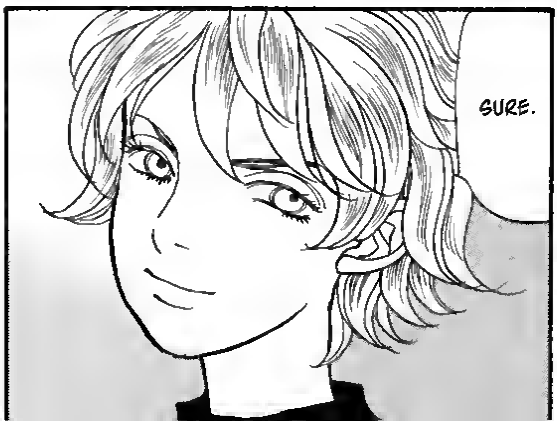
WANT!!!
A GOLDEN MENKO!!!
SPACE
THANK YOU.
GO FOR IT...
WELL, ALL RIGHT.

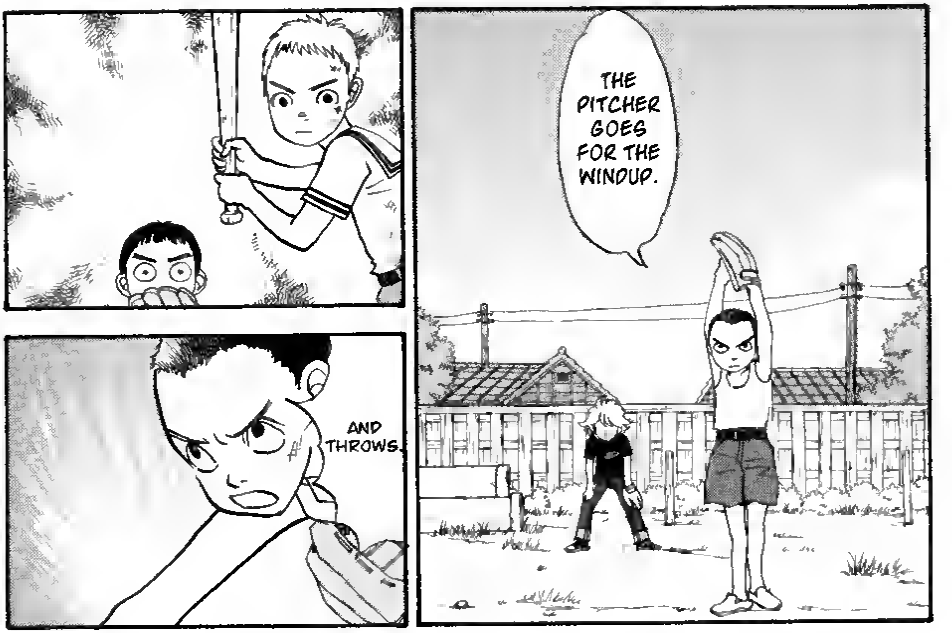

SFX: SLICE

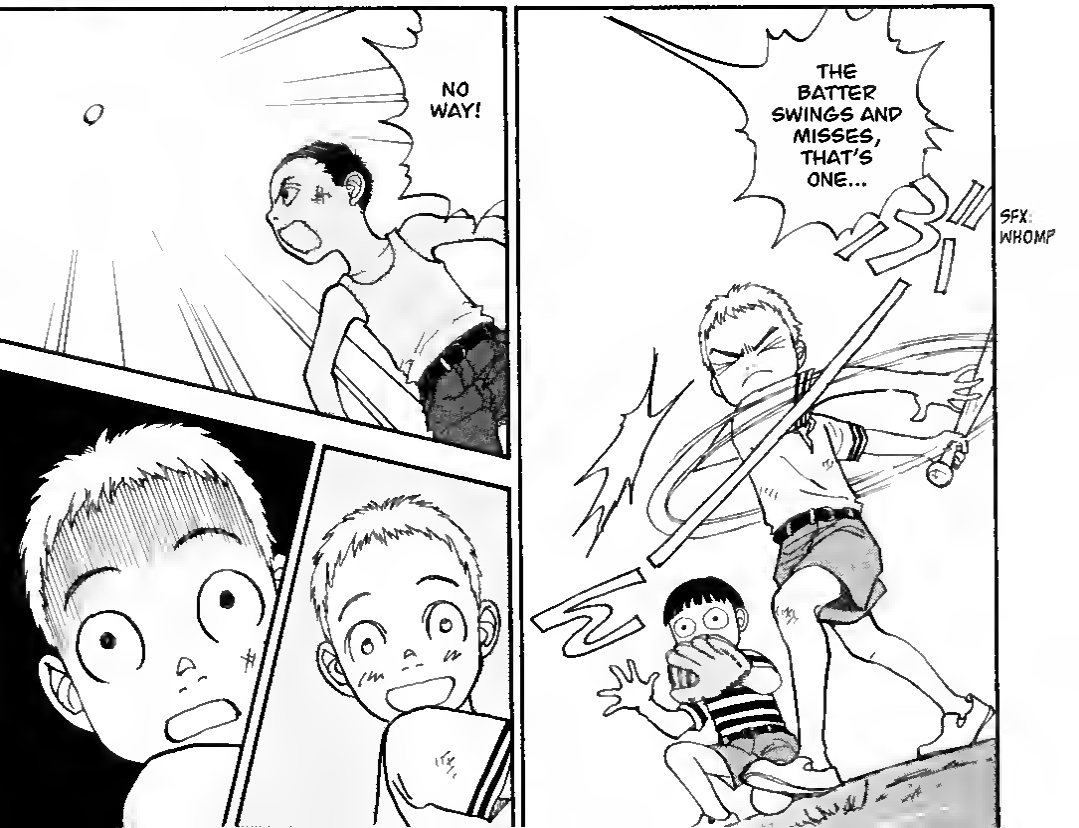


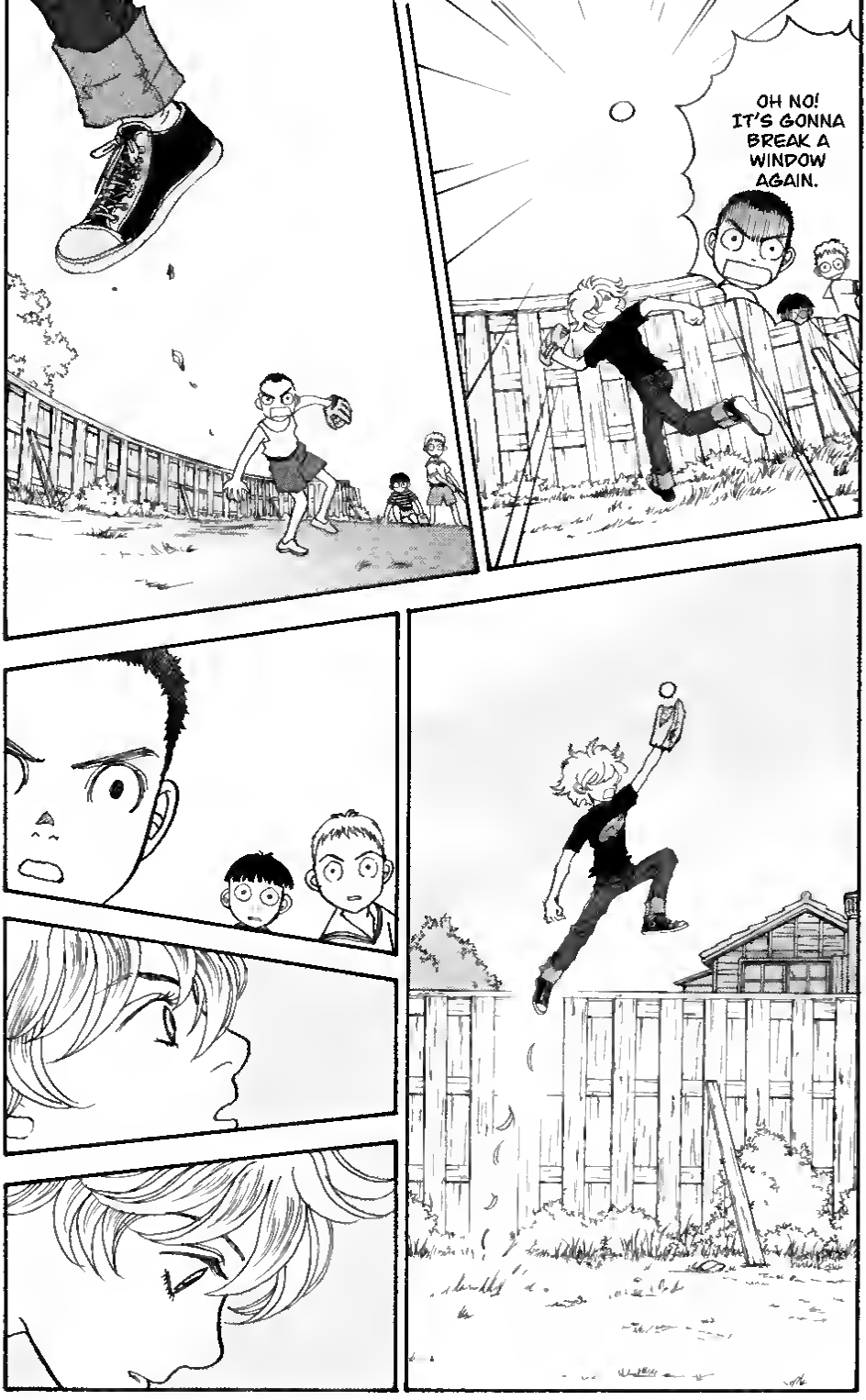

I'LL DEFINITELY WIN 'EM BACK.
SHIT! ONE MORE GAME.

ROCKET


SURE.


THE PITCHER GOES FOR THE WINDUP.
AND THROWS.


NO WAY!
THE BATTER SWINGS AND MISSES, THAT'S ONE...
SFX: WHOMP


OH NO!
IT'S GONNA
BREAK A
WINDOW
AGAIN.

HEY, YOU...!
SFX: STARE
Gotcha
RUN!
SFX: CRASH
SO YOU GET A WISH?
DAY AFTER DAY AFTER DAY.
PLAYED IN THAT EMPTY LOT
AFTER THAT, THE FOUR OF US

IT'S TRUE! IT'S COMING THIS YEAR, SO LET'S FIND OUT.
Ouch
YOU'RE A LIAR, YOSHI-BOU.
IF ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS WISH ON A STAR, THEN EVERYBODY WOULD BE RICH.
YEP. MY GRANDMA SAW IT 52 YEARS AGO.
IT'S CALLED THE LUNDGREN COMET.
フフン
ARE WE GONNA BE OKAY, GOING OUTSIDE THAT LATE...?
BUT... I HEARD THAT THE BEST TIME TO SEE IT IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
SFX: HEHEH
ALL RIGHT. WE'LL DO A TEST OF COURAGE THE NIGHT THE COMET COMES.

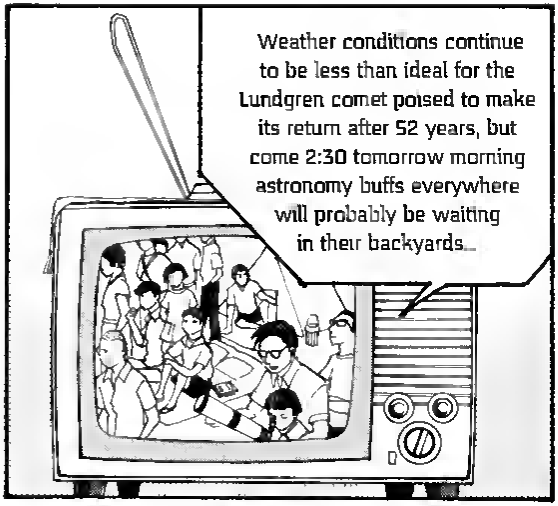
YOU HAVE TO TELL IT LOUD AND CLEAR WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.
IF YOU JUST WISH AT THE COMET, IT WON'T COME TRUE
I KNOW WHAT TAKESHI WOULD SAY—"I WILL STOP WETTING THE BED."
LIKE, "I WILL GROW BIG AND STRONG," SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
はっ
SFX: GULP
はっ
SFX: GASP
I WONDER IF IT'S OKAY TO WISH FOR LOTS OF THINGS.
RIGHT?
にっ
SFX: SMILE

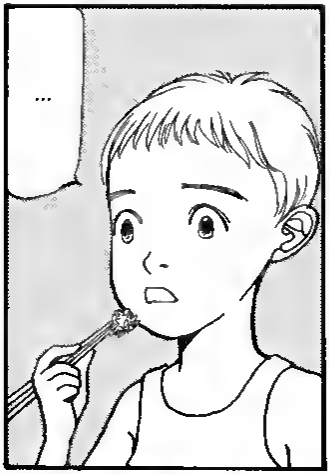
ONE REAL WISH.
YOU ONLY GET
ONLY ONE...
ONE THING AT A TIME...
SO YOU CAN ONLY WISH FOR...
MAYBE IT WAS A FEW WEEKS.
MAYBE IT WAS A FEW MONTHS.

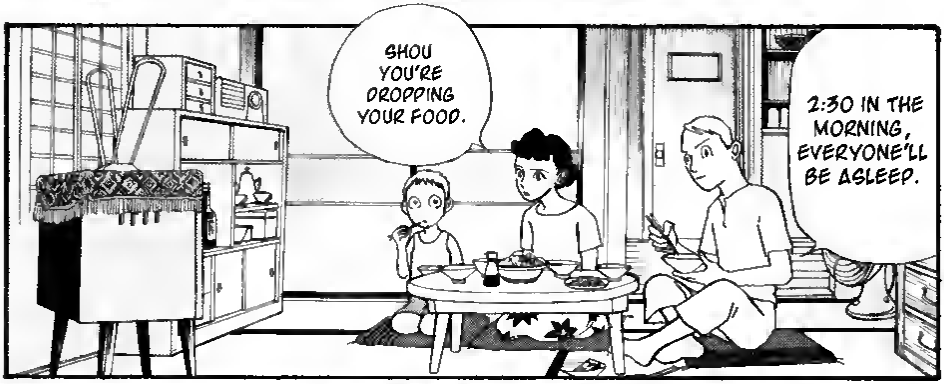
OR MAYBE JUST A FEW DAYS
THAT WE SPENT TOGETHER, LIKE A DREAM, BEFORE ONE DAY IT ALL CAME TO AN ABRUPT END.
HEY!
NOT COMING.
WHERE'S TAKESHI?

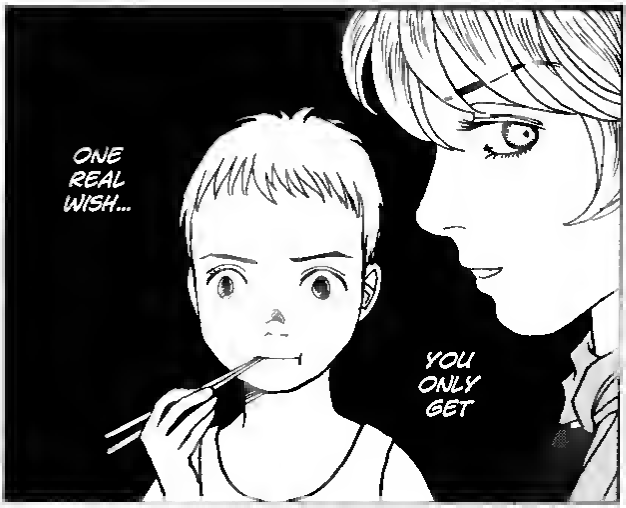
TAKESHI WASN'T LIKE US. HIS FAMILY WAS PRETTY HIGH-CLASS.
THAT'S RIGHT
HE SAID HE HAS A TUTOR STARTING TODAY.
ACTUALLY, I'M MOVING SOON, TOO.
SFX: SCRITCH SCRATCH
カリ
カリ
カリ..

EVEN THE MYSTERIOUS BOY STOPPED COMING AROUND ALL OF A SUDDEN.

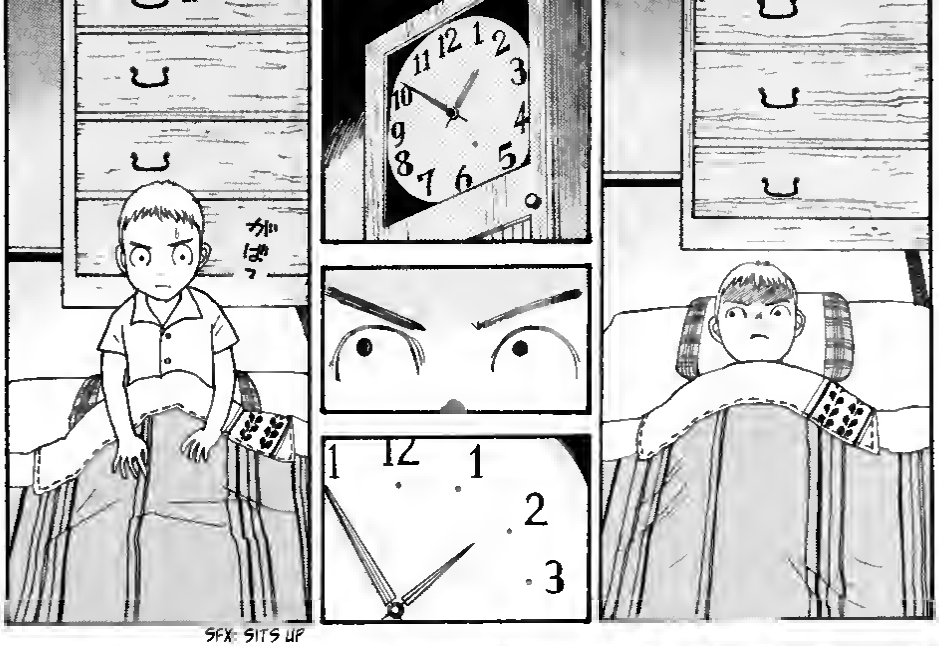

Weather conditions continue to be less than ideal for the Lundgren comet poised to make its return after 52 years, but come 2:30 tomorrow morning astronomy buffs everywhere will probably be waiting in their backyards.


...

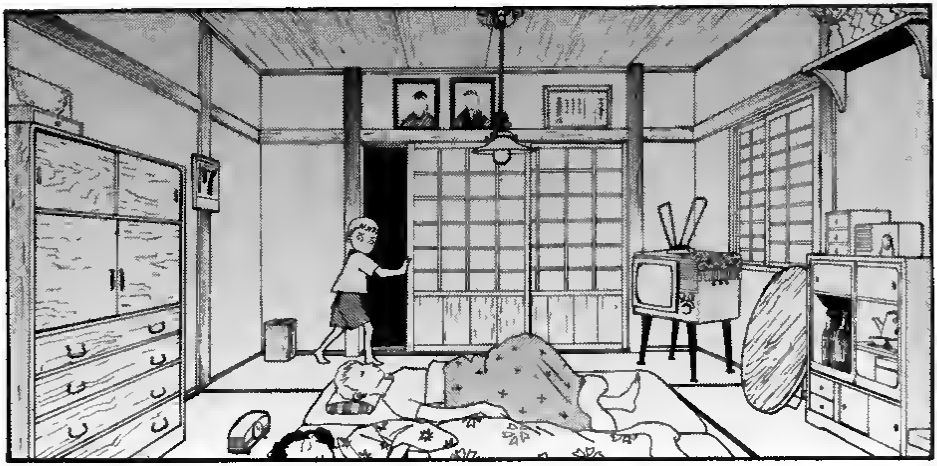

SHOU YOU'RE DROPPING YOUR FOOD.
2:30 IN THE MORNING, EVERYONE'LL BE ASLEEP.


ONE REAL WISH...
YOU ONLY GET

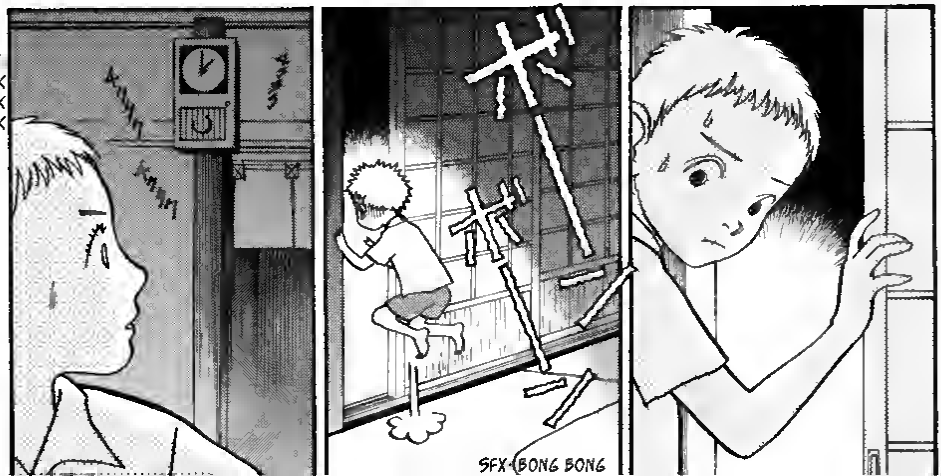
SHOU.
HUH?
OH.



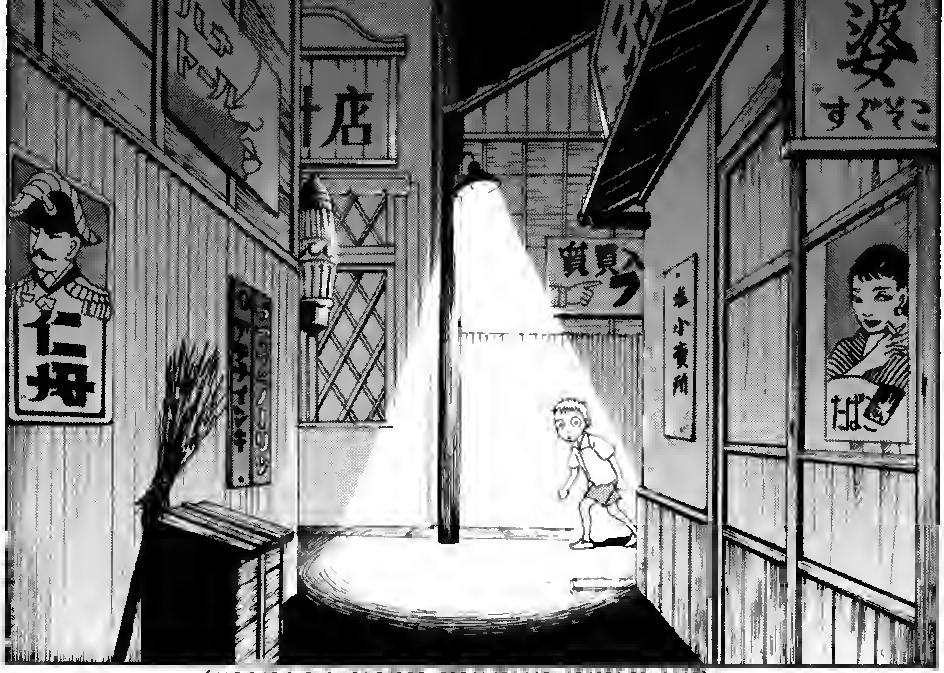
SFX: SITS UP



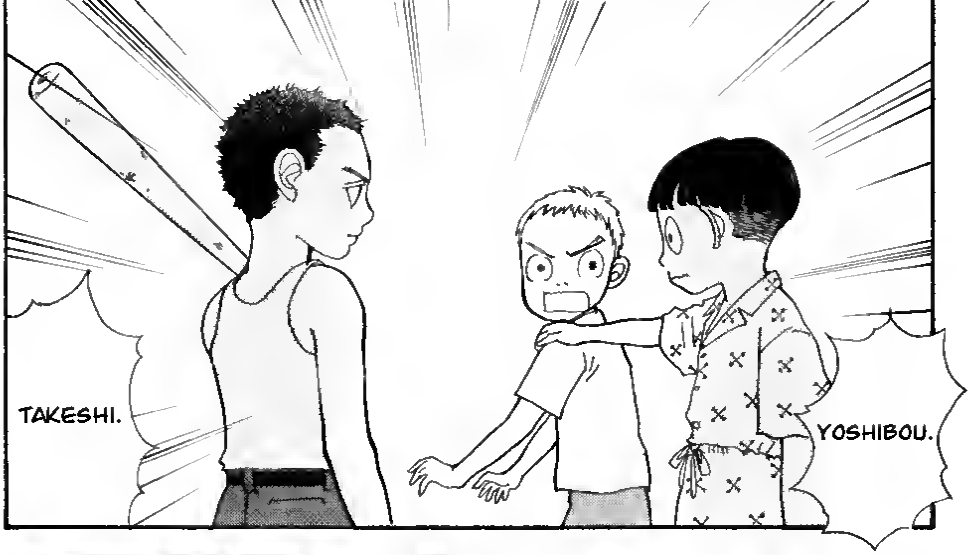
SFX
TICK
TICK
TICK

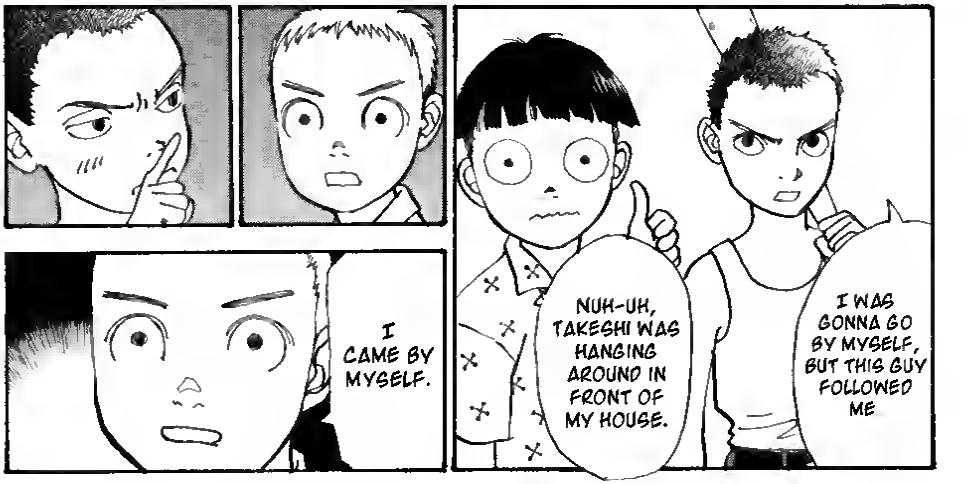


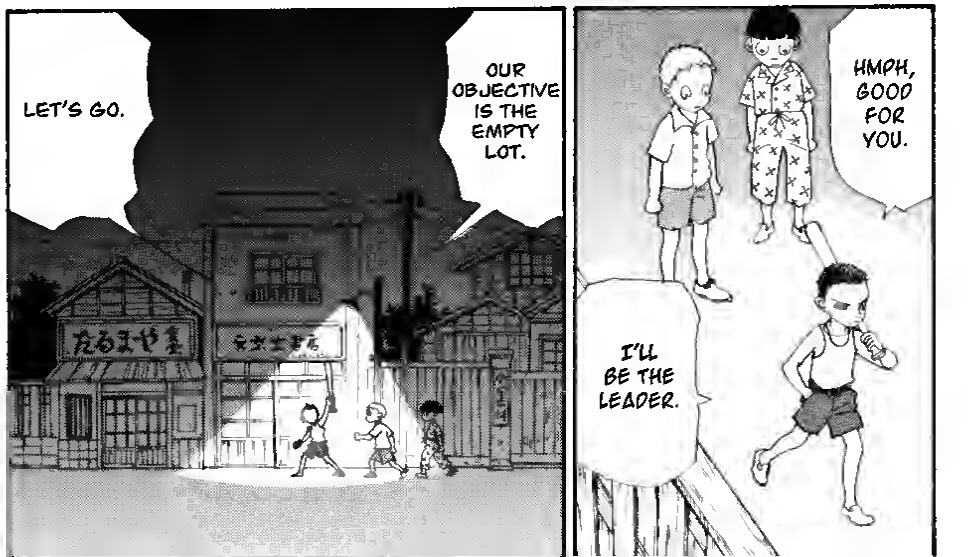
SFX: BONG BONG

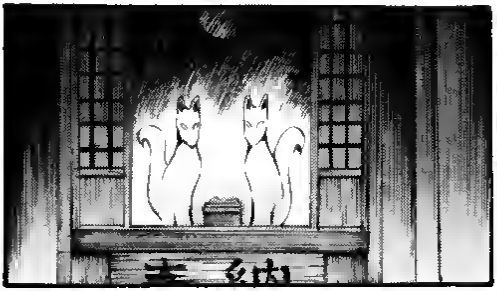


(VARIOUS OLD-TIMEY SHOPS, RESTAURANTS, ADVERTISEMENTS)

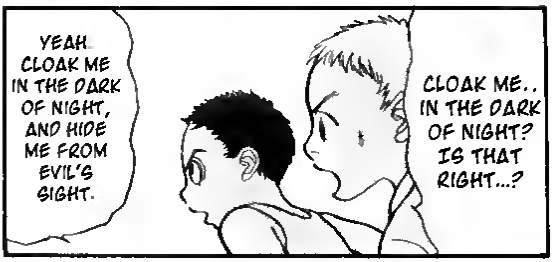

TAKESHI.
YOSHIBOU.

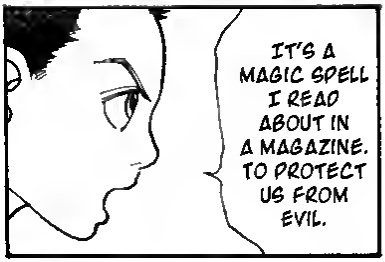

I CAME BY MYSELF.
NUH-UH, TAKESHI WAS HANGING AROUND IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE.
I WAS GONNA GO BY MYSELF, BUT THIS GUY FOLLOWED ME

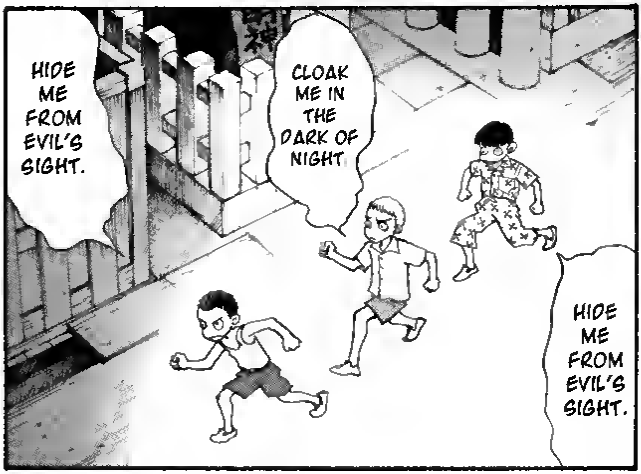

LET'S GO.
OUR OBJECTIVE IS THE EMPTY LOT.
HMPH, GOOD FOR YOU.
I'LL BE THE LEADER.

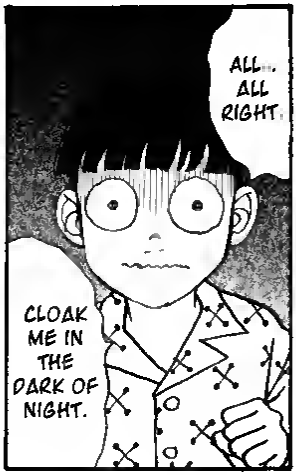


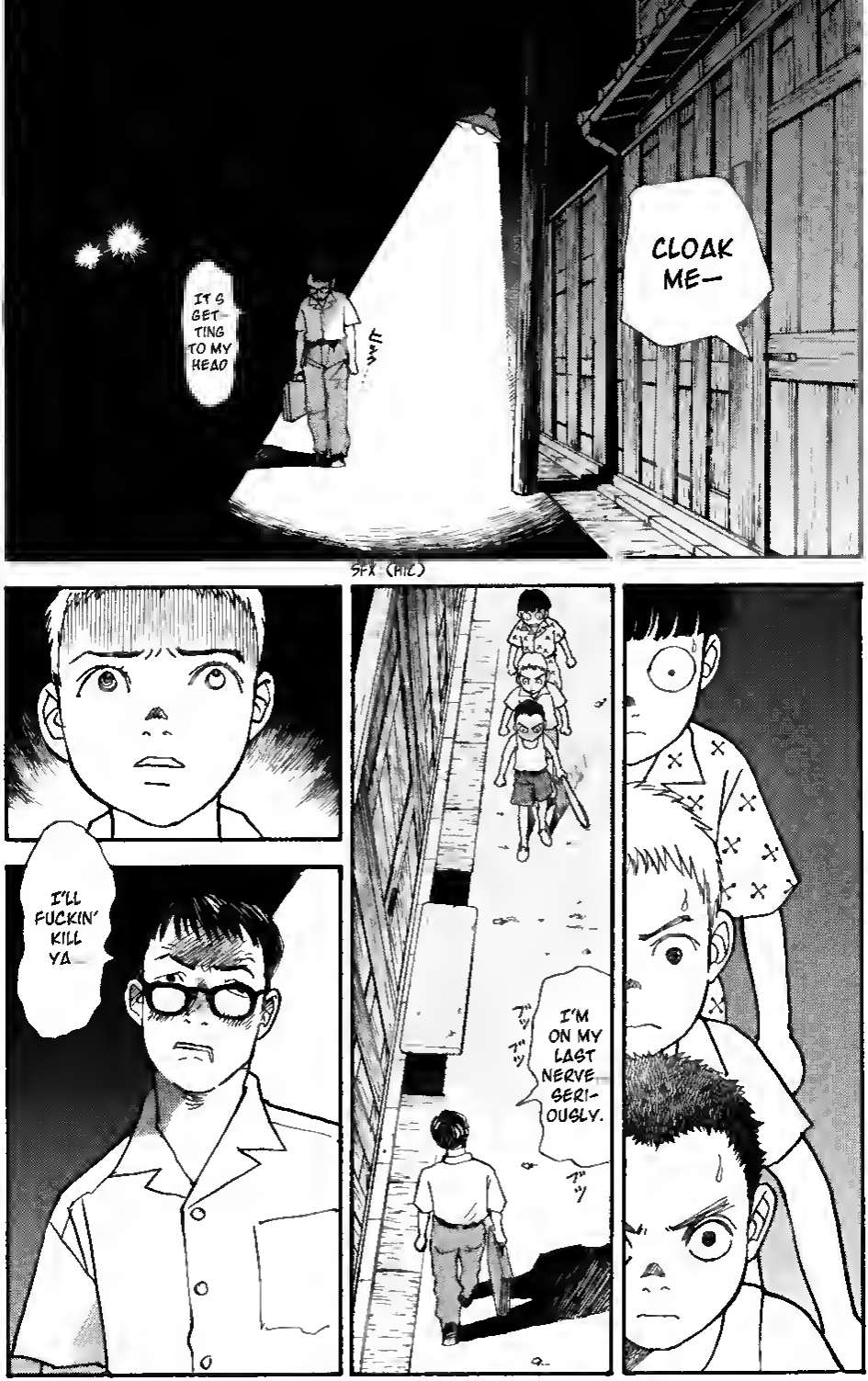
..CLOAK ME..?
..CLOAK ME... IN THE DARK OF NIGHT..

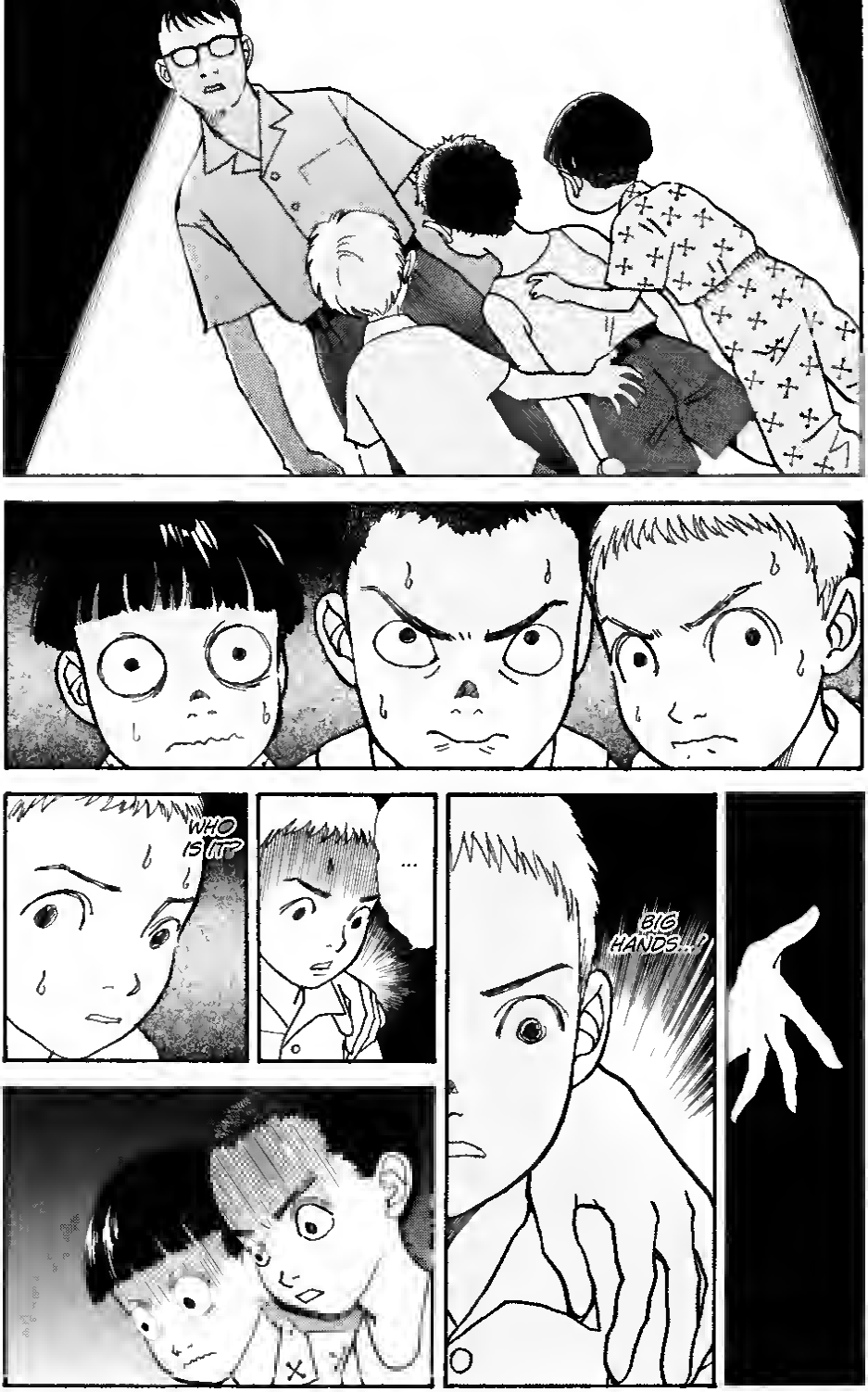

YEAH. CLOAK ME IN THE DARK OF NIGHT, AND HIDE ME FROM EVIL'S SIGHT.
CLOAK ME.. IN THE DARK OF NIGHT? IS THAT RIGHT...?


IT'S A MAGIC SPELL I READ ABOUT IN A MAGAZINE. TO PROTECT US FROM EVIL.

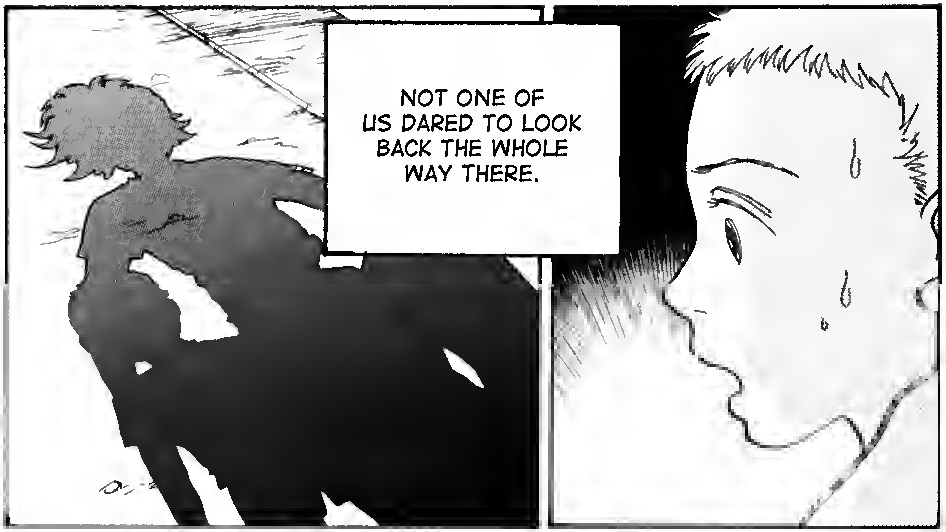

HIDE ME FROM EVIL'S SIGHT.
CLOAK ME IN THE DARK OF NIGHT
HIDE ME FROM EVIL'S SIGHT.


ALL... ALL RIGHT.
CLOAK ME IN THE DARK OF NIGHT.

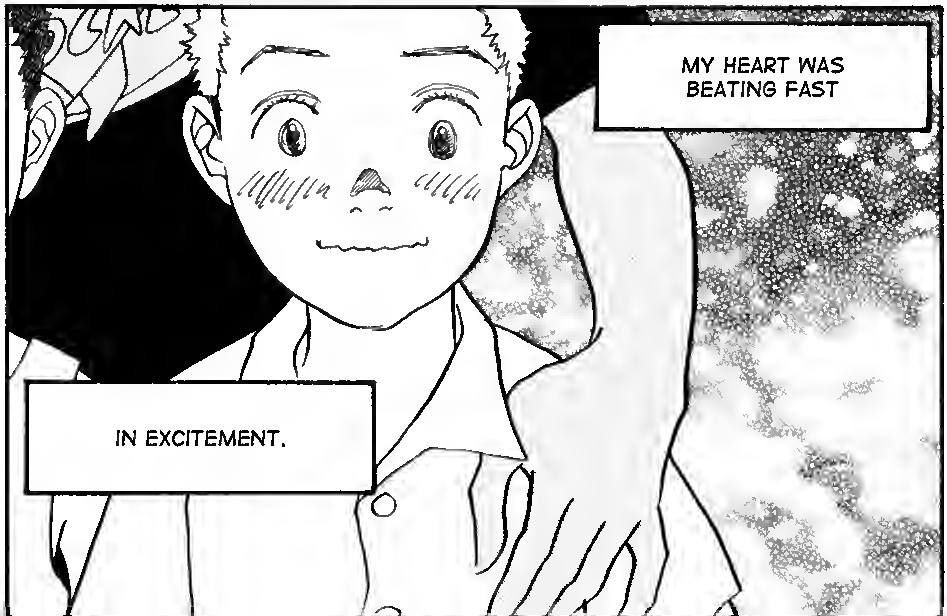

CLOAK ME—
IT'S GETTING TO MY HEAD
ﾍｯ
SFX (HIC)
I'LL FUCKIN' KILL YA—
I'M ON MY LAST NERVE SERIOUSLY.
ﾌﾞｯ
ﾌﾞｯ
ﾌﾞｯ


WHO IS IT?
...
BIG HANDS...!

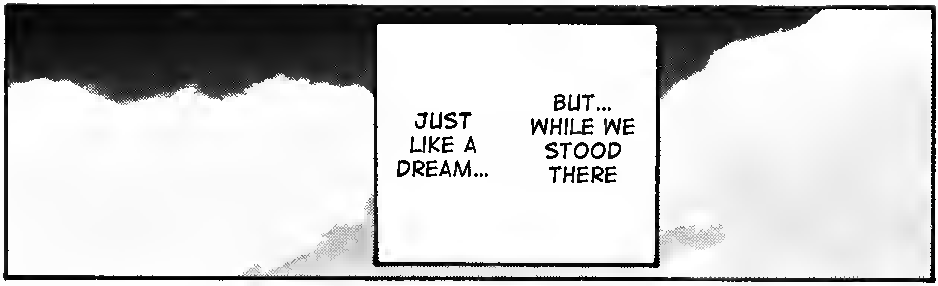
SFX: HIC
YOU'RE GOING TO THE OLD EMPTY LOT, RIGHT?

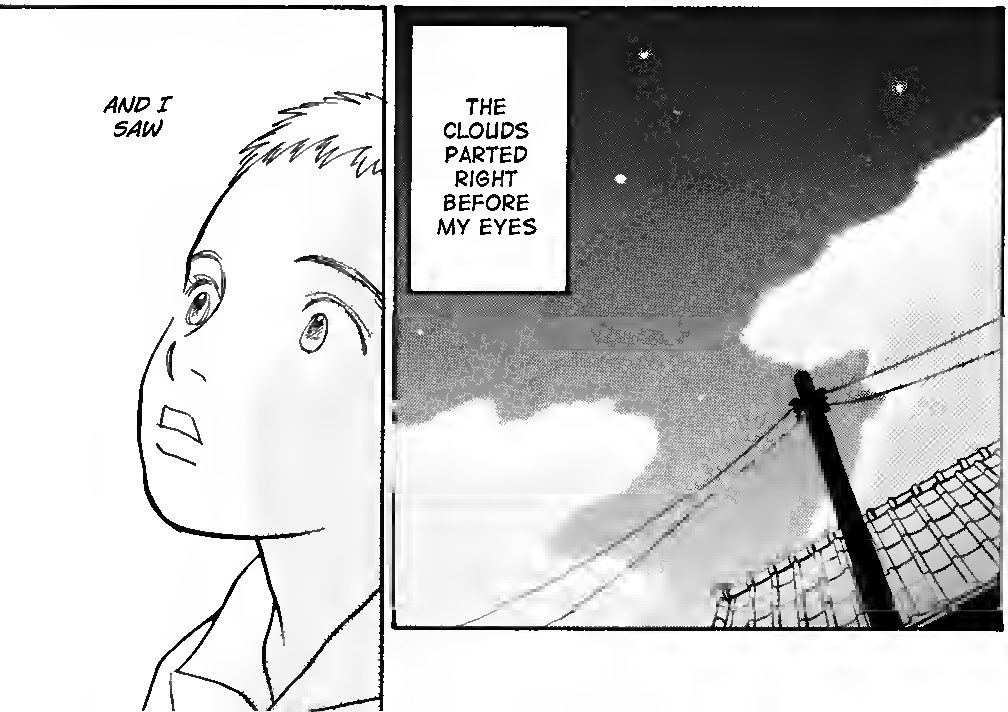

NOT ONE OF US DARED TO LOOK BACK THE WHOLE WAY THERE.

I WAS SCARED.
I WAS SCARED, BUT...


MY HEART WAS BEATING FAST
IN EXCITEMENT.

THE SKY WAS COVERED OVER WITH THICK CLOUDS.
WHEN WE GOT THERE

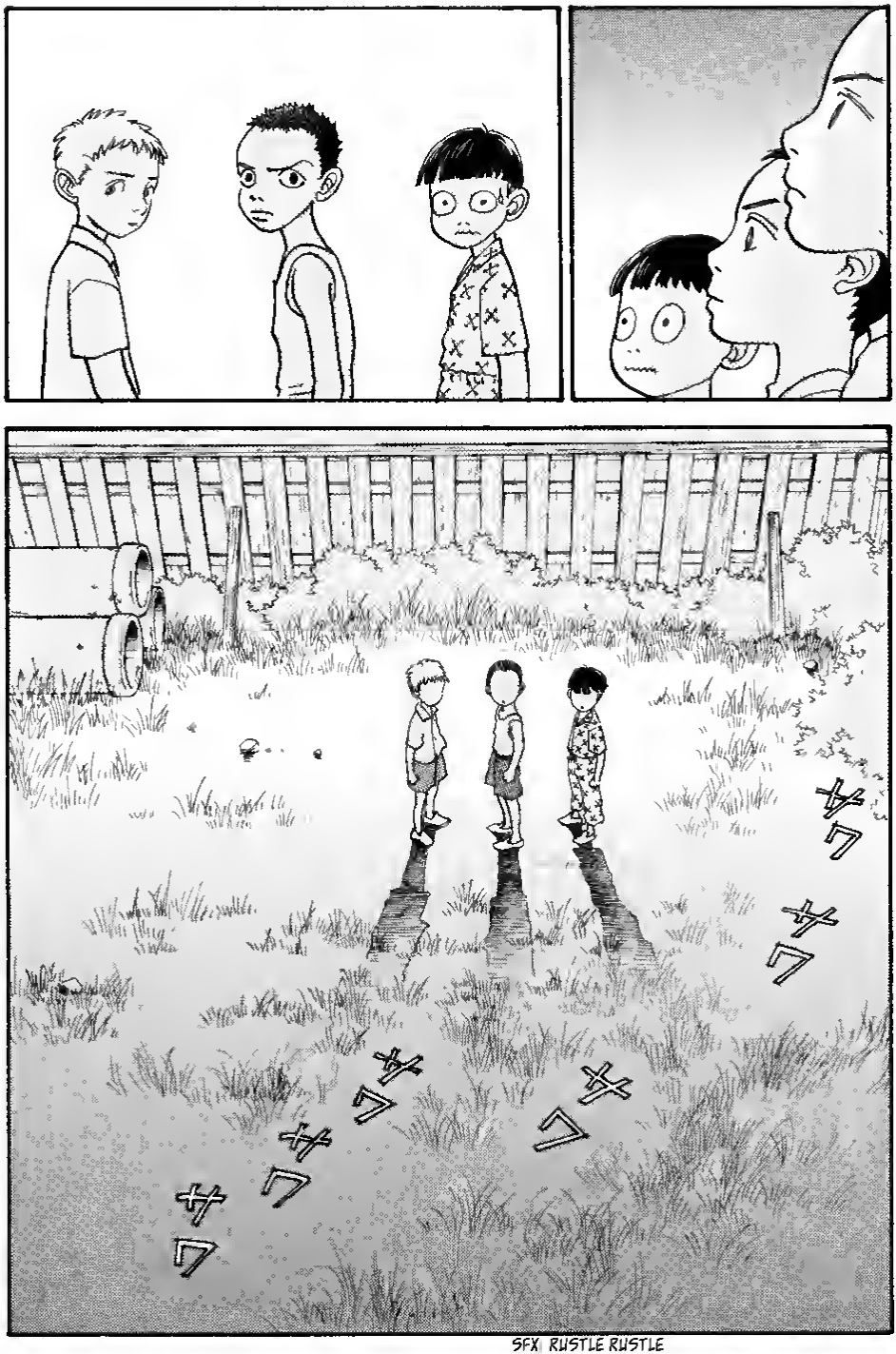

JUST LIKE A DREAM...
BUT... WHILE WE STOOD THERE


AND I SAW
THE CLOUDS PARTED RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES

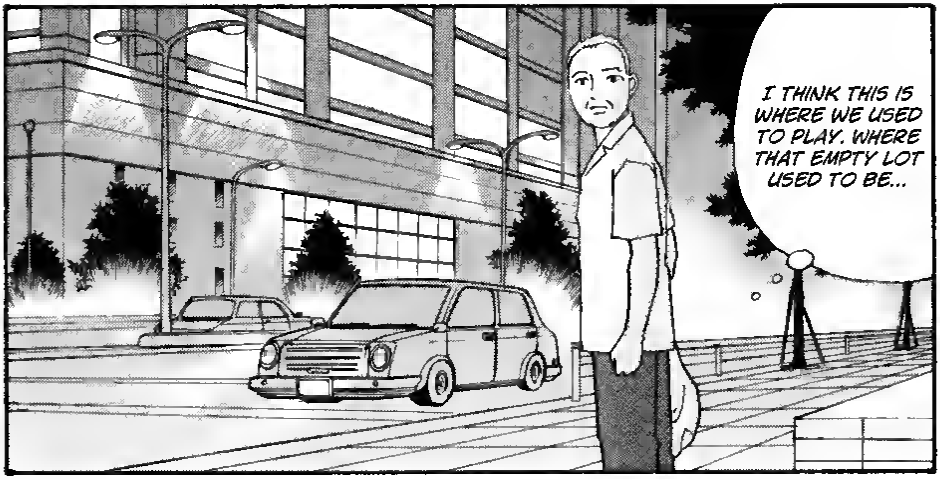
A BIG, BIG
SHOOTING
STAR.

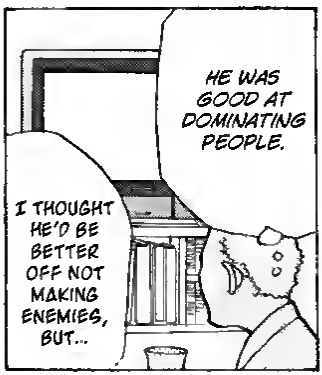
I TOLD MYSELF, WITH ALL MY HEART
THAT 52 YEARS LATER, WHEN THESHOOTING STAR CAME BACK AGAIN, WE'D DEFINITELY COME BACK HERE TO SEE IT.
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I KNEW FOR SURE
THAT THE OTHER TWO WERE THINKING THE SAME THING.

LET ME TELL YOU SOME-THING.
ALL RIGHT,
THE OTHER THREE...?
NO...
BUT THEY WON'T BE LOST.
THE DAYS YOU HAD FUN TOGETHER WILL EVENTUALLY BE IN THE PAST,
THEY'LL ALWAYS BE IN YOUR HEART.

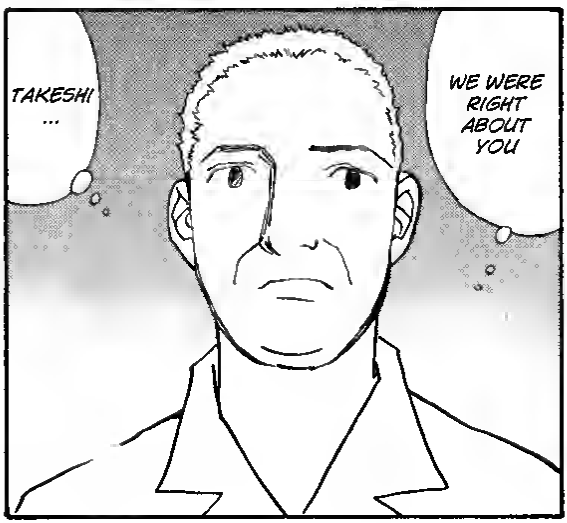


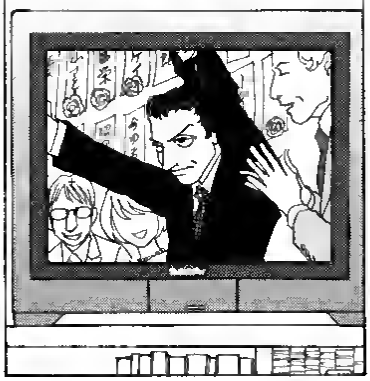
SFX: RUSTLE RUSTLE

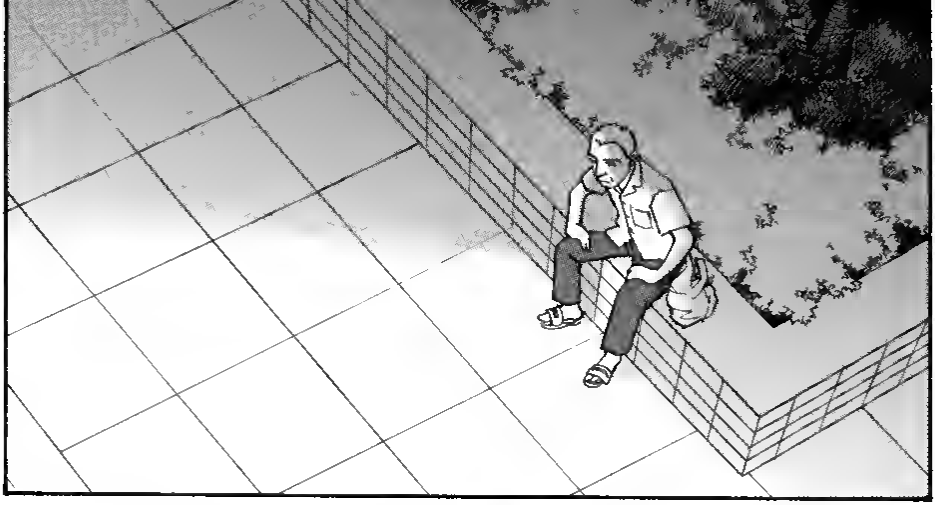


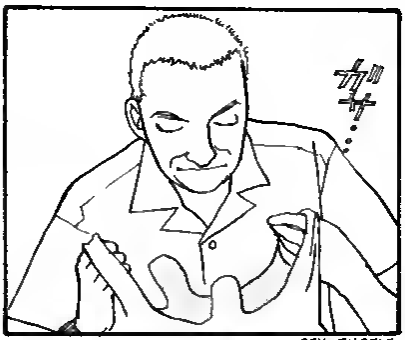


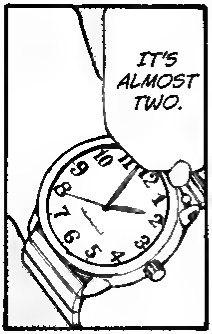
AFTER THAT, THE CITY STARTED ENLARGING THE STREETS SO TAKESHI'S FAMILY ENDED UP MOVING AWAY TOO. I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THEY WENT, AND THE NEXT TIME I SAW HIM WAS ON TV.





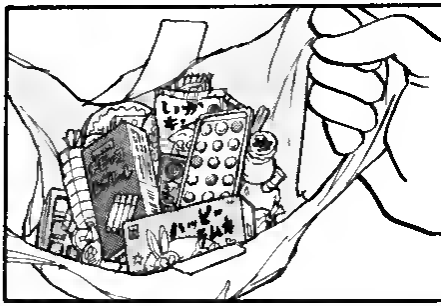


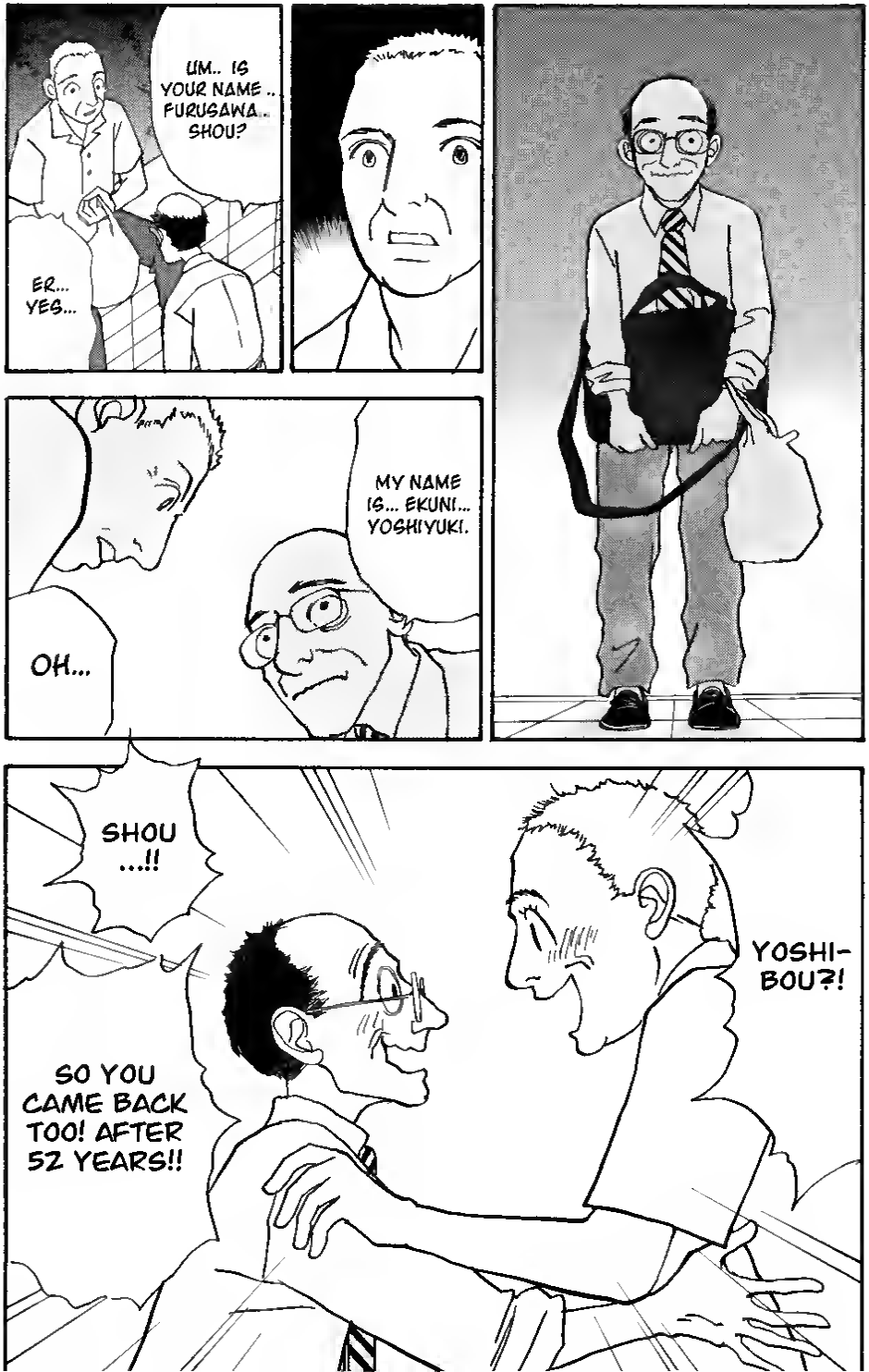


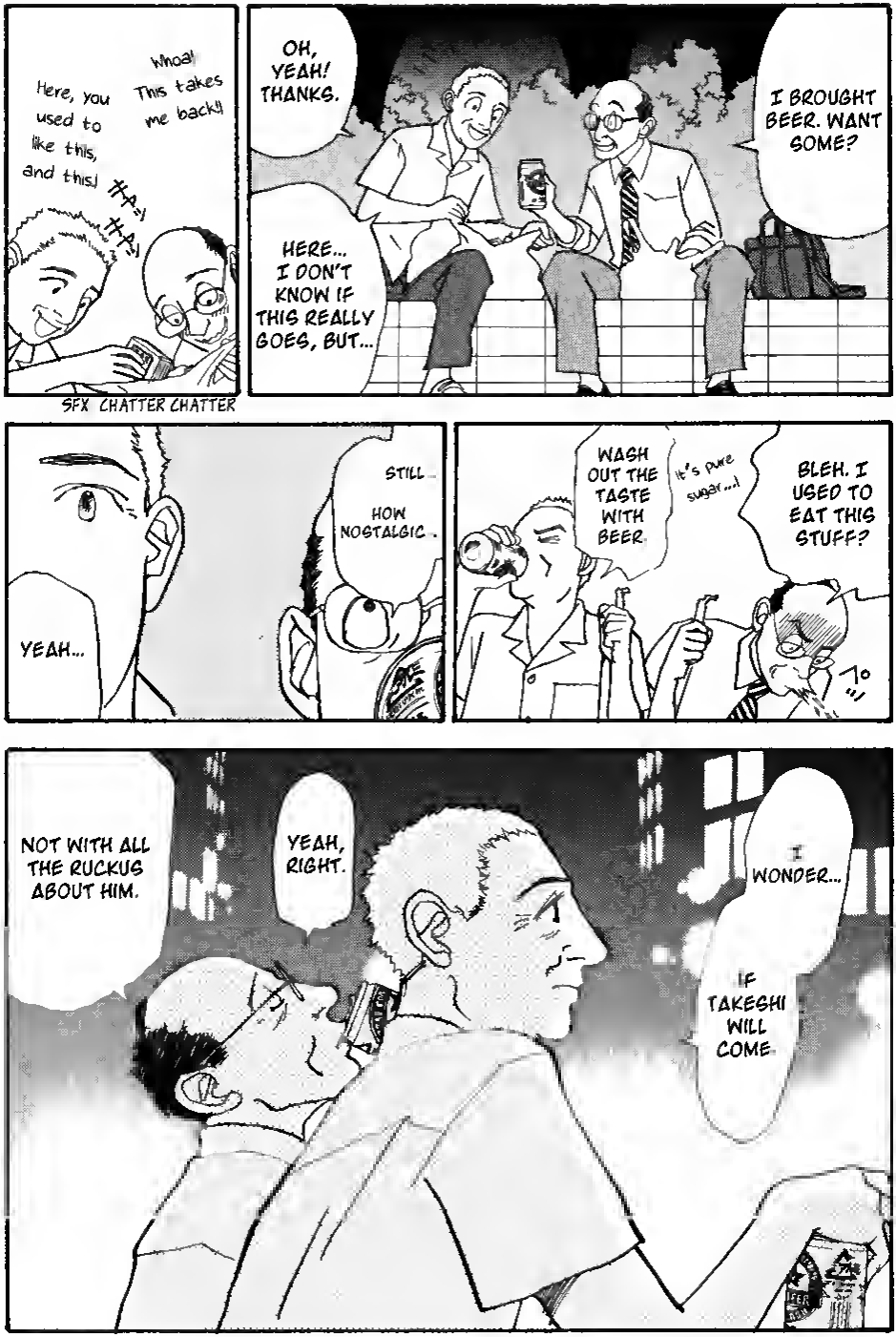


SFX: RUSTLE

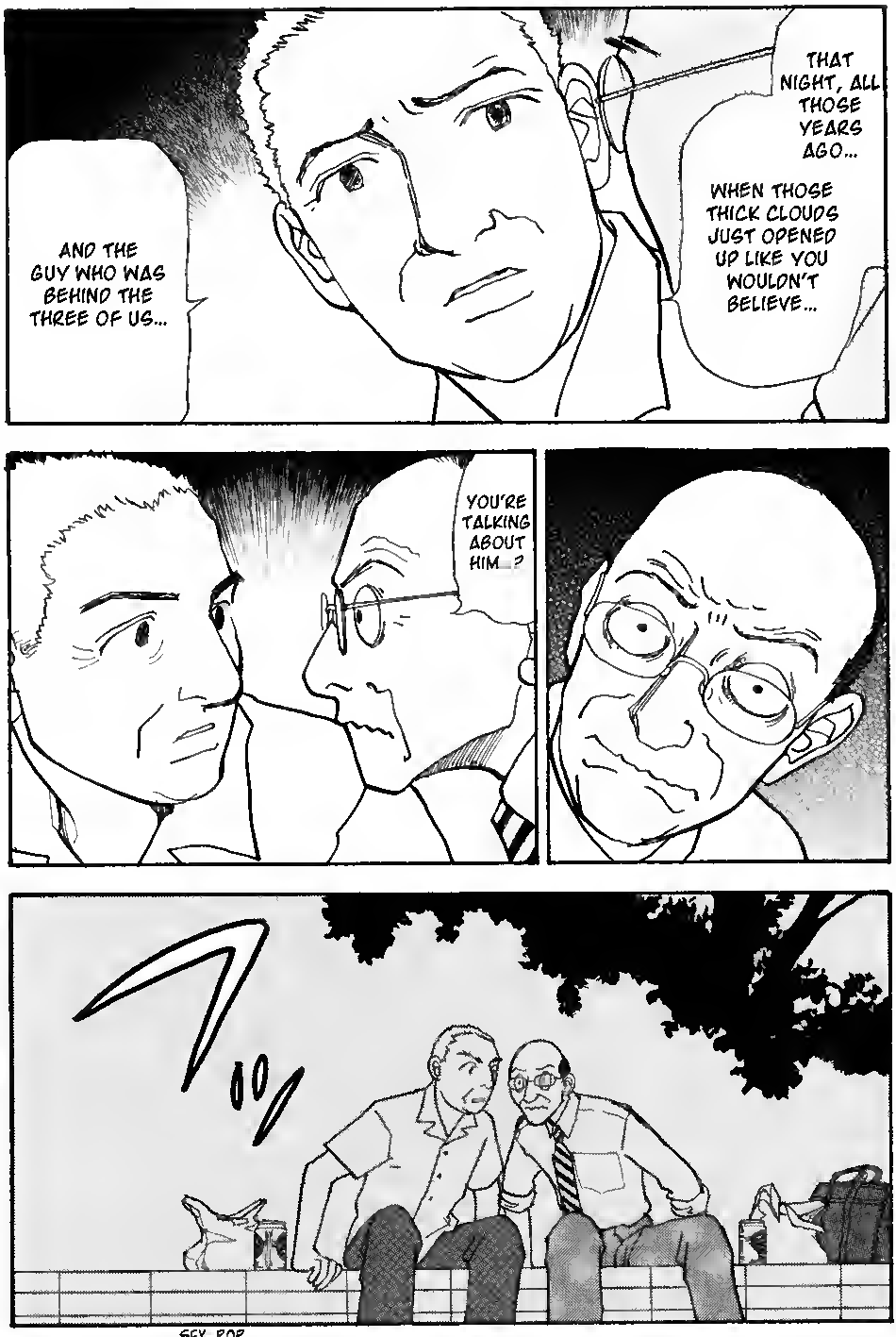
SFX: RUMMAGE




UM.. IS YOUR NAME .. FURUSAWA.. SHOU?
ER... YES...
MY NAME IS... EKUNI... YOSHIYUKI.
OH...
SHOU ...!!
YOSHI-BOU?!
SO YOU CAME BACK TOO! AFTER 52 YEARS!!


Here, you used to like this, and this!
Whoa! This takes me back!
SFX CHATTER CHATTER
OH, YEAH! THANKS.
I BROUGHT BEER. WANT SOME?
HERE... I DON'T KNOW IF THIS REALLY GOES, BUT...
YEAH...
STILL... HOW NOSTALGIC.
WASH OUT THE TASTE WITH BEER.
It's pure sugar...!
BLEH. I USED TO EAT THIS STUFF?
SFX PTOOEY
NOT WITH ALL THE RUCKUS ABOUT HIM.
YEAH, RIGHT.
I WONDER... IF TAKESHI WILL COME.

DON'T BE SILLY.
ISN'T THAT SCANDAL ALL THE MORE REASON FOR HIM TO COME?
I CAN'T SEE THE STARS.
IT'S SO BRIGHT..
...
I ALWAYS THOUGHT ABOUT
HOW THAT NIGHT STARTED OUT SO CLOUDY...
THE BUILD-INGS ARE TOO BRIGHT.
WATCHING THE COMET FROM HERE IS JUST CRAZY TALK.

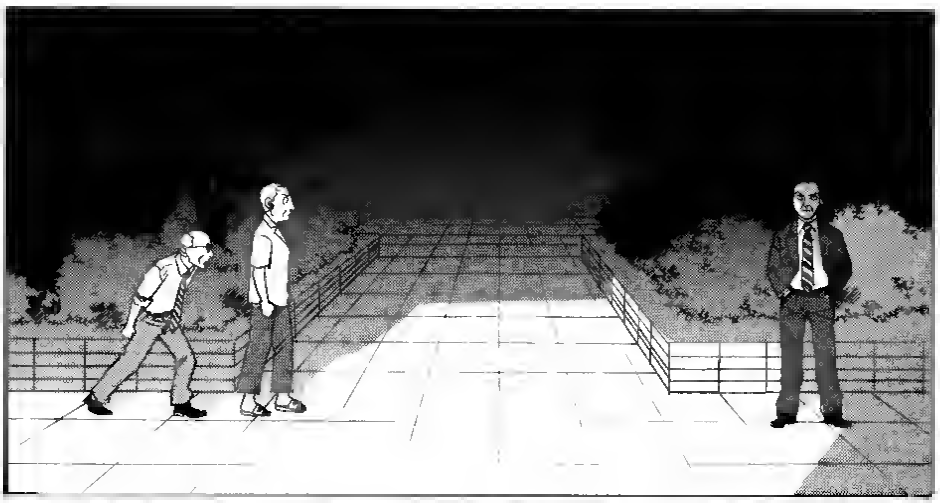

AND THE GUY WHO WAS BEHIND THE THREE OF US...
THAT NIGHT, ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...
WHEN THOSE THICK CLOUDS JUST OPENED UP LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE...
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT HIM...?
SFX POP

IT'S A BLACKOUT.
JUST THOSE BUILD-INGS...?!
SFX: POP
SFX: POP
SFX: POP

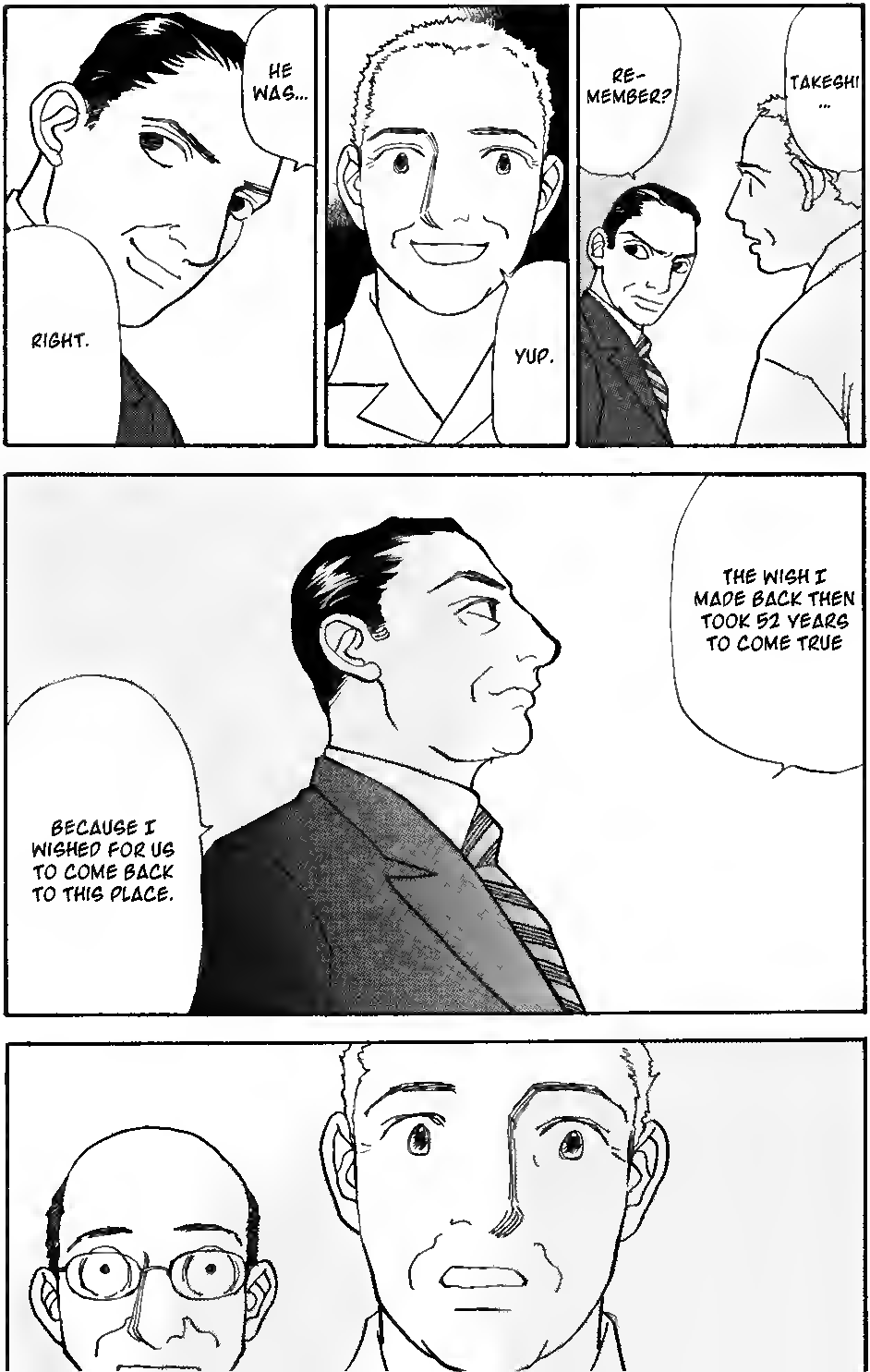
EVEN THE EMERGENCY LIGHTS ARE OUT!
WHAT HAPPENED?!
...
THIS IS RIDICULOUS!!

WE JUST LOOKED AT EACH OTHER, AND NEITHER OF US SAID A WORD.
IT MUST BE HIM.
THAT'S RIGHT.

WOW...
..
..
I SAW IT...
HUH?
HEY, SHOU...



TAKESHI ?
THOSE DAYS WE HAD FUN TOGETHER ARE OVER, BUT NOT GONE
BECAUSE THEY'LL ALWAYS BE IN YOUR HEART... RIGHT?


HE WAS...
RIGHT.
YUP.
RE-MEMBER?
TAKESHI ...
THE WISH I MADE BACK THEN TOOK 52 YEARS TO COME TRUE
BECAUSE I WISHED FOR US TO COME BACK TO THIS PLACE.

ALL THREE...
WE WERE ALL
THINKING THE SAME THING.
NO...

ALL FOUR OF US.

不思議な少年 a Wonder Boy

ふしぎなしょうねん

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